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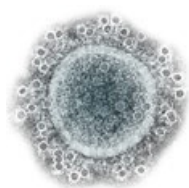
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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Updated March 3, 2020

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continue to closely monitor an outbreak of respiratory illnesses caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

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Mississippi Coronavirus Hotline (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday): **877-978-6453**

Overview

COVID-19 cases have now spread from China to many countries around the world. The CDC and MSDH are working to detect, contain and limit the spread of cases in the U.S. and Mississippi should they occur. MSDH is actively planning with doctors and hospitals on how to respond safely and effectively to any case of COVID-19 in Mississippi.

▶ Full COVID-19 information from the CDC

There are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Mississippi.

About COVID-19

COVID-19 is a new respiratory virus that causes flu-like illness. Like the flu virus, it is thought to be spread person-to-person by close contact (within 6 feet) and by coughing or sneezing. Other possible routes of transmission, such as touching surfaces contaminated by the virus, are also being investigated.

Like the flu, COVID-19 can cause illness that ranges from mild to severe, with symptoms of fever, coughing, fatigue and difficulty breathing.

- Questions and Answers for Mississippians About COVID-19
- Questions and Answers about Coronavirus COVID-19 CDC
- Full COVID-19 information from the CDC

Who Is at Risk

Currently, only those who have recently traveled to countries where there is sustained person-to-person transmission of COVID-19, or who have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 are considered at risk of infection.

- If you have traveled to China or another affected area within 14 days and develop a fever and symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath, you should call ahead to a healthcare professional. Mention your recent travel.
- If you have had close contact with anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection and you develop the symptoms above, you should call ahead to a healthcare professional. Mention your close contact and their recent travel.

- More about travel

COVID-19 in the U.S. and Mississippi

Cases of COVID-19 continue to be identified in U.S. states, and in some areas, person-to-person contact has been identified. This is a rapidly changing situation that is continually being monitored by the CDC and MSDH as more cases in the U.S. are expected.

The risk of infection to the general public in Mississippi remains low. To date, no cases in Mississippi have been identified.

Mississippi confirmed cases: **0**

More Information on U.S. Cases

- Coronavirus COVID-19 cases in the United States CDC

Prevention and Preparedness

For Individuals

Preventive measures against COVID-19 are the same as those for other respiratory viruses like the flu. To help prevent getting and spreading disease:

- Stay home if you are sick, and avoid close contact with anyone who is ill.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes. When possible, cough, sneeze or blow your nose into a tissue, and throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after coughing or sneezing, blowing your nose, and using the bathroom. Effective handwashing takes about 20 seconds, and includes cleaning under fingernails, between fingers, and washing the back of hands as well as the front. More proper handwashing tips '
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often.
- Stay in good overall health by eating right and staying active. If you are living with diabetes, heart disease or other condition, keep in touch with your doctor and stay current with your treatment.
- During or before flu season, get a flu shot. Flu vaccination can prevent the flu or make it less severe, and decrease your chance of hospitalization and death. It also keeps you healthier and better able to fight off infections.

  ▸ More about preventing respiratory virus illnesses

In the Community

Schools, businesses, events and other places that people gather can take steps to prevent or limit the spread of viral illness.

The CDC offers preparation advice for:

  ▸ Households
  ▸ Schools and daycares
  ▸ Healthcare facilities
  ▸ The workplace, colleges, gatherings and more

The CDC also has new guidance for cleaning rooms and buildings visited by those who have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

  ▸ Cleaning and disinfection recommendations for schools, offices and other non-healthcare facilities CDC

The Mississippi Department of Education has issued guidelines for Mississippi schools concerning COVID-19.

  ▸ Department of Education COVID-19 Guidelines MDE

For Healthcare Professionals

  ▸ Guidance for Mississippi Healthcare Providers: **Identify, Isolate and Call MSDH**
  ▸ Flowchart: Identifying and reporting COVID-19 cases to MSDH
  ▸ Mississippi Specimen Collection and Shipping Guidance

  ▸ **Complete guidances and information for healthcare professionals**

What MSDH Is Doing

The Mississippi State Department of Health is aggressively responding to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation. With other state agencies, it has activated emergency operations in order to prepare for possible person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in Mississippi.

Other steps that MSDH is taking include:

- Increasing surveillance (monitoring) activities to identify cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible and to limit person-to-person transmission.
- Working directly with hospitals and healthcare providers across the state to plan for possible cases of COVID-19, preparing them to identify and safely treat cases.
- Assessing statewide hospital capacities, ensuring the capacity of the MSDH Public Health Laboratory for COVID-19

testing, and informing all Mississippi healthcare providers about procedures for identifying and testing for coronavirus cases.

- Providing guidance to business, education and other entities on how to respond to the possible spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Coronavirus Hotline

The Mississippi State Department of Health is now operating a hotline for convenient answers to questions about COVID-19 by phone.

Mississippi Coronavirus Hotline (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday): **877-978-6453**

Information for Travelers

Travelers Overseas: The CDC has issued Travel Warnings recommending the postponement or avoidance to countries where COVID-19 is being actively transmitted. The U.S. Department of State has also issued a Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory to China.

- CDC Guidance for Travelers
- State Department Travel Advisories

Travelers returning to the U.S.: Steps to protect health are being taken nationally for travelers returning from parts of the world affected by COVID-19, including health screenings on entry into the U.S..

- Full information for returning travelers CDC

Resources

- Handouts: Basic disease prevention and handwashing flyers for printing

Get weekly restaurant inspections and more by e-mail: [email address] [+]

Last reviewed on Mar 5, 2020

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