

Recent Releases



## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES AND INFORMATION

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The South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) continues to respond to the emergence of the novel coronavirus. We are working with the CDC and our healthcare partners across the state to protect South Dakotans from COVID-19.

### SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 INFORMATION LINE

Questions about COVID-19? We're here to help.

PLEASE CALL **1-800-997-2880**



**Updates include:**

- Cases have been identified in South Dakota.
- The number of cases and countries with infections worldwide is increasing and can be found on the [WHO website](#).
- Case counts and other information about the novel coronavirus can be found on the [CDC website](#).
- Travelers returning from China, Iran, Italy and South Korea should self-monitor for 14 days for novel coronavirus symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) and contact SD-DOH at 800-592-1861 if they develop symptoms to aid coordination of care.

#### COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

On March 4, 2020, CDC updated the clinical criteria for testing a symptomatic individual after evaluation by their healthcare provider. As a result, the South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) expects the number of persons under investigation (PUI) being tested for COVID-19 to increase.

**The number of PUI being tested does not reflect the level of risk to the public in the state.** For more information about the outbreak, potential risks, and protective recommendations, visit the [SD-DOH website](#) or [CDC website](#).

This table shows the total number of positive COVID-19 cases in South Dakota residents, the total number of persons that tested negative, and the total number of PUIs that are pending results.

**As of March 11, 2020**

<b>Positive*</b>	8
<b>Negative</b>	27
<b>Pending</b>	11

\*Includes presumptive positives sent to CDC for final testing

Counties reporting cases: Beadle, Charles Mix, Davison, Minnehaha (3), Pennington, Bon Homme

This table will be updated each weekday

- March 5, 2020 - [Update Webinar for Healthcare Providers | Slides](#)
- March 4, 2020 - [Informational Briefing for Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#)
- February 27, 2020 - [South Dakota Prepares for COVID-19](#)

## PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID ILLNESS

### What can you do?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Refraining from touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults and people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease, should [take actions](#) to reduce your risk of exposure.
- Create a family [plan](#) to prepare for COVID-19 and develop a [stay at home kit](#) with food, water, medication, and other necessary items.

South Dakota's healthcare system is prepared to identify and treat cases of COVID-19.

### If you develop symptoms:

- Call your health care provider immediately and tell them about any recent travel or exposure.
- Individuals who are concerned that they have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider via phone before going to a clinic or hospital to prevent spread in healthcare facilities.
- Avoid contact with other people.
- Follow the directions of your provider and public health officials.

CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. You should only wear a mask if a healthcare professional recommends it. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms. This is to protect others from the risk of getting infected. The use of facemasks also is crucial for [health workers](#) and other [people who are taking care of someone infected with COVID-19 in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).

## INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL PROVIDERS

- Medical providers who are concerned a patient may be infected with COVID-19 should:
  - Mask the patient
  - Isolate the Patient in a private room or separate area, and
  - Contact with SD-DOH (800-592-1861) immediately for consultation and guidance
- Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other infectious causes of respiratory illness, such as influenza and RSV. **Note:** Asymptomatic patients are **not eligible** for testing at the SD Public Health Laboratory.

Priority Level	Clinical Features	Risk Exposure*
<b>Low</b>	Fever OR Cough OR Shortness of Breath	None identified
<b>Medium</b>	Fever OR Cough OR Shortness of breath AND Elevated risk for severe infection**	None identified
<b>Medium</b>	Fever OR Cough OR Shortness of Breath	Identified risk
<b>High</b>	Fever OR Cough OR Sore Throat OR Shortness of Breath	Identified healthcare risk***
<b>High</b>	Fever AND Cough OR Shortness of Breath	Identified risk
<p>*Individual meets the risk exposure criterion if they have one of the following:</p> <p>Close contact to a laboratory-confirmed case within 14 days of symptom onset.</p> <p>History of travel to a geographic area with community transmission in a state within 14 days of symptom onset. <a href="#">Visit CDC website for the current list of states.</a></p> <p>History of travel from a country under a Level 2 or Level 3 Travel Advisory. <a href="#">Visit CDC website for the current list of countries.</a></p> <p>**Elevated Risk for Severe COVID-19 Infection</p> <p>Hospitalized patients</p> <p>Older adults (65 years of age and older)</p> <p>Individuals with certain pre-existing conditions (e.g., heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and immunosuppressed)</p> <p>***Any healthcare worker who was caring for or who had unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of a suspected COVID-19 patient or laboratory-confirmed case within 14 days of symptoms onset.</p>		

- Guidance on specimen collection and testing, infection control practices, and other considerations are available at:
  - [SD-HAN 20-007: Guidance on Evaluating Persons for COVID-19 Infection \(Updates SD-HAN 20-003\)](#)
  - [SD-HAN 20-006: Healthcare Facility Checklist](#)

- [SD-HAN 20-005: CDC COCA Call](#)
  - [SD-HAN 20-004: Webinar for Healthcare](#)
  - [SD-HAN 20-003: Evaluating Persons for COVID-19](#)
  - [SD-HAN 20-002: Monitoring and Movement Guidance on Novel Coronavirus](#)
  - [CDC Clinician Call: What Clinicians Need to Know to Prepare for COVID-19](#)
  - [CDC HAN 427: Updated and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
  - [SD Public Health Lab Specimen Guidance](#)
- [CDC COCA Call COVID-19 Update - March 5, 2020](#) [call in information](#)
  - SD-DOH would like to remind medical providers, hospitals, and laboratories that cases of COVID-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, are considered immediately [reportable](#) in South Dakota (under Coronavirus Respiratory syndromes).
  - CDC issued guidance to healthcare facilities in the event that a traveler with illness is identified.
    - [Evaluating and reporting persons under investigation](#)
      - [Evaluating PUIs and Asymptomatic Close Contacts](#)
    - [Healthcare infection control guidance](#)
    - [Clinical care guidance](#)
    - [Home care guidance](#)
    - [Guidance for EMS](#)
    - [Healthcare personnel with potential exposure guidance](#)
    - [Inpatient Obstetrics Care](#)
    - [Disposition of patients with novel coronavirus](#)
    - [Collection and testing of postmortem samples](#)

## COMMUNITY GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

- Community mitigation guidance from the CDC is available for:
  - [Households](#)
  - [People at Higher risk](#)
  - [Businesses](#)
  - [Schools and childcare centers](#)
  - [Colleges and Universities](#)
  - [Community and faith-based organizations](#)
  - [Large events](#)
  - [Law enforcement](#)
- [COVID-19 and Schools: Information for School Administrators and Nurses](#) (PDF)
- [Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations](#) (PDF)

**Preventing  
COVID-19  
Spread in  
Communities**



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