

Recent Releases



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

[COVID-19 in South Dakota](#) | [News](#) | [Precautions to Avoid Illness](#) | [Information for Medical Providers](#) | [Community Guidance & Resources](#) | [CDC Website](#)

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.



**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 12, 2020

Positive*	8
Negative	27
Pending	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

## NEWS

- 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.

### Find Federally Qualified Health Centers in South Dakota

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*
Low	Fever OR Cough OR Shortness of Breath	None identified
Medium	Fever OR Cough OR Shortness of breath AND Elevated risk for severe infection**	None identified
Medium	Fever OR Cough OR Shortness of Breath	Identified risk
High	Fever OR Cough OR Sore Throat OR Shortness of Breath	Identified healthcare risk***
High	Fever AND Cough OR Shortness of Breath	Identified risk

\*Individual meets the risk exposure criterion if they have one of the following:

- Close contact to a laboratory-confirmed case within 14 days of symptom onset.
- History of travel to a geographic area with community transmission in a state within 14 days of symptom onset. [Visit CDC website for the current list of states.](#)
- History of travel from a country under a Level 2 or Level 3 Travel Advisory. [Visit CDC website for the current list of countries.](#)

**\*\*Elevated Risk for Severe COVID-19 Infection:**

- Hospitalized patients
- Older adults (*65 years of age and older*)
- Individuals with certain pre-existing conditions (*e.g., heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and immunosuppressed*)

**\*\*\*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.**

- 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](#)
  - [CMS - Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in nursing homes \(Revised 03/09/20\)](#)
- **COVID-19 Lab Specimen Submission Form**
  - [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](#)

**Local COVID-19  
transmission in  
your community?**

**CLICK HERE  
for Mitigation  
Strategies**



### Community

- [Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission \(CDC, PDF\)](#)

### Schools

- **New CDC Guidance: Considerations for School Closure**
- [COVID-19 and Schools: Information for School Administrators and Nurses \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Presentation for Schools \(PDF\)](#)

### Business

- [Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations \(PDF\)](#)



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