

Recent Releases



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

- [COVID-19 in South Dakota | News](#)
- [Precautions to Avoid Illness | If You Develop Symptoms](#)
- [Community Guidance & Resources](#)
- [Information for Medical Providers | SD Guidance for Providers](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Providers | 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 High Risk Countries ( [See CDC Travel Advisories](#)) should self-monitor for 14 days for novel coronavirus symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) and call their medical provider to discuss their symptoms.

### 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 15, 2020

Positive*	9
Negative	327
Pending	6

\*Includes presumptive positives sent to CDC for final testing

#### 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in South Dakota

Number of Cases	9
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#### South Dakota Counties with COVID-19 Cases

Beadle	1
Bon Homme	1
Charles Mix	1
Davison	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	3
Pennington	1

Note: All cases had travel history outside South Dakota prior to illness onset. There is no community transmission at this time.

#### Age Group of South Dakota COVID-19 Cases

0 to 19 years	0
20 to 29 years	0
30 to 39 years	2
40 to 49 years	3
50 to 59 years	2
60 to 69 years	2
70 to 79 years	0
80+ years	0

#### Sex of South Dakota COVID-19 Cases

Male	8
Female	1

These tables will be updated every day

## NEWS

- March 13, 2020 - [Press Conference](#)
  - Governor Noem announces additional COVID-19 response efforts including declaring a state of emergency, recommending school closures for the week of March 16, nursing home visitation restrictions, and an executive order for state employee remote work.
- March 12, 2020 - [Press Conference](#)
  - Governor Noem and Health Department Officials provide an update on South Dakota's COVID-19 response.
- March 10, 2020 - [Press Conference](#)
  - Governor Noem, Health Department officials announce South Dakota's first presumptive positive cases of COVID-1
- 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.

### Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations (CDC)

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

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU DEVELOP SYMPTOMS

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).

## 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



### Communities

- Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission (CDC, PDF)
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations (CDC)

### Schools

- CDC Guidance: Considerations for School Closure
- COVID-19 and Schools: Information for School Administrators and Nurses (PDF)
  - Presentation for Schools (PDF)

### Businesses

- Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations (PDF)

## 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.

## SD GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- 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 03/13/20)
- CMS: [COVID-19 Emergency Declaration - Healthcare Providers Fact Sheet](#) (03/13/20)
- **SARS-CoV-2 Laboratory Requisition and PUI Evaluation Form** (3/13/2020)
  - [SD Public Health Lab Specimen Guidance](#)
- [Archived COVID-19 Conference Calls](#)
- 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 GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS**

CDC issued guidance to healthcare facilities in the event that 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](#)



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