February 5, 2021 Update

Surveillance
- COVID-19 case data, health information and relevant updates to Tennesseans are available at COVID19.tn.gov.
- COVID-19 data by county are available in data snapshots by county.
- COVID-19 vaccination data are available here.
- The weekly Critical Indicators Report includes information to help stakeholders monitor trends in cases, symptoms, testing capabilities and health care system capacity.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations represent 12% of all hospitalized patients in TN. Hospitalizations continue to increase. TDH and UCG are working closely with hospitals across the state to ensure adequate staffing and bed capacity.

Response
- Tennessee will begin administering COVID-19 vaccinations to Tennesseans aged 70 and older this week as the state has begun receiving increased allocations of COVID-19 vaccines. Tennesseans aged 70 and up may begin registering for COVID-19 vaccination on February 2. Tennesseans can find information on the phases eligible for vaccination in their county and register for vaccination through their county health department at https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/county-vaccine-information/.
- TDH is accessing expansion to COVID-19 vaccination with a focus on rural and underserved areas. TDH is partnering with pharmacies and community health clinics to add more than 100 new vaccination sites across the state.
- When case counts were at their highest, temporary restrictions were placed on indoor school sporting events. The data now reflects rapidly falling numbers and because of that the restrictions around who can participate in or attend indoor school sporting events will end. The guidance and rules of local education agencies and the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association remain in place, but Executive Order 74 will be suspended effective Monday, February 1.
- Tennessee county health departments are now booking appointment for people in Phase 1a1 and 1a2 populations of the Tennessee COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and those aged 75 and up who wish to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. The state is also providing COVID-19 vaccinations to residents and staff members in long-term care facilities, a priority population for Phase 1a1of the plan. Vaccine supplies remain limited, and availability of vaccines vary by county.
- TDH and Tennessee's Unified Command Group have added features to the COVID19.tn.gov website to make it easier to find county-specific information and request an appointment for COVID-19 vaccination.
- Governor Lee announced a new digital tool to help inform Tennesseans when they will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The eligibility tool allows users to opt-in to receive updates and notification about their vaccine phase and provides risk-based and age-based phase information at the county level.

Ongoing TDH Activities
- Supporting COVID-19 assessments at local health departments.
- Operating information lines for public inquiries and maintaining a clinician's consultation line.
- Sharing information via social media networks and the TDH COVID-19 webpage and conducting telebriefings for healthcare providers, hospitals, and partner agencies.
- Investigating cases, tracing contacts, and monitoring cases and contacts, according to CDC's recent Prioritization Recommendations. Implementing recent Options to Reduce Quarantine.
- Utilizing the Healthcare Resource Tracking System to monitor COVID-19 hospitalization numbers, personal protective equipment inventories and strain on the healthcare system.
- Recruiting medical professionals through the Medical Reserve Corps Program.
- Supporting state laboratory testing.
- Organizing distribution of rapid antigen test kits to vulnerable populations.

Important Reminders
- COVID-19 tests are free to all in local health departments.
- A hotline is available for frontline healthcare workers, implemented by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.
- The Tennessee Pledge: a plan to help Tennesseans return to work in a safe environment, restore their livelihoods and reboot the state's economy.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings.
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water (or alcohol-based hand rub) for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.