September 25, 2020 Update

**Surveillance**
- COVID-19 data by county are available in [data snapshots by county](https://example.com).
- The weekly [Critical Indicators Report](https://example.com) includes information to help stakeholders monitor trends in cases, symptoms, testing capabilities and health care system capacity.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations represent ~8% of all hospitalized patients in TN, and hospital capacity remains stable across Tennessee.

**Response**
- Governor Bill Lee announced a 5-day extension for eligible small businesses to certify for the Tennessee Business Relief Program (TBRP). Businesses can check their eligibility at businessrelief.tn.gov. Eligible businesses can certify [here](https://example.com).
- Beginning October 1, 2020 facilities that have gone at least 14 days with no new COVID-19 cases among residents or staff members will immediately be allowed to offer outdoor or limited indoor visitation with residents. Visit requirements will include maintaining strict precautions for the safety of both residents and staff members.
- The new Tennessee COVID-19 Long-Term Care Task Force is charged with developing and implementing new policy solutions to address immediate and future issues impacting long-term care facilities and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Additional information about these initiatives is available here:
    - [Increased Visitation in Long Term Care Facilities](https://example.com)
    - [Resuming Activities in Long Term Care Facilities](https://example.com)
- Governor Bill Lee signed the following, effective through September 30, 2020:
  - [Executive Order No. 59](https://example.com), extending provision that facilitate the continued treatment and containment of COVID-19 through regulatory flexibility, promotion of social distancing and wearing face coverings in public places, and protection of vulnerable populations.
  - [Executive Order No. 60](https://example.com), extending provisions that allow for electronic government meetings, as long as electronic access is also provided for the public.
  - [Executive Order No. 61](https://example.com), extending provisions that allow for remote notarization and witnessing of documents.
- Funding in the amount of $61 million is available for projects that will enhance broadband access in areas that lack all equipment needed to provide a broadband connection that can support telemedicine, distance learning, and telecommuting.
- Tennessee Department of Education's dashboard on COVID-19 cases in schools is now live.

**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.
- Utilizing the Healthcare Resource Tracking System to monitor COVID-19 [hospitalization numbers](https://example.com), personal protective equipment inventories and strain on the healthcare system.
- Recruiting medical professionals through the [Medical Reserve Corps Program](https://example.com).
- Supporting state laboratory testing.

**Important Reminders**
- COVID-19 tests are free to all in [local health departments](https://example.com).
- A [hotline](https://example.com) is available for frontline healthcare workers, implemented by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.
- The [Tennessee Pledge](https://example.com): 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](https://example.com) 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.

**Recent Guidance from CDC**
- New: [Holiday Celebrations](https://example.com) | [At-Home Scavenger Hunt](https://example.com) | [Parental Resources Kit board game](https://example.com) | [Parental Resources Kit scavenger hunt scoresheet](https://example.com) | [Contact Tracing Workflow in a non-US setting](https://example.com) | [Optimizing Supply of PPE and Other Equipment during Shortages](https://example.com) | [Contact Tracing MIT](https://example.com)
- Updated: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](https://example.com) | [Staffing Resources](https://example.com) | [FAQs for Wildland Firefighters](https://example.com) | [How COVID-19 Spreads](https://example.com) | [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination](https://example.com)