May 1, 2020 Update

Surveillance

- Please visit the (recently reformatted) TDH COVID-19 webpage for Tennessee's most up-to-date case count or CDC's COVID View: a weekly surveillance summary of U.S. COVID-19 activity.
- The State Public Health Laboratory and commercial laboratories continue to increase testing capacity for the virus causing COVID-19.
- TDH shared a message with healthcare providers about the use of antibody tests, which are becoming widely available. These tests are not the preferred way to diagnose acute COVID-19 infection. Learn more here.
- TDH is beginning enhanced surveillance efforts for COVID-19 through the existing influenza sentinel Provider Network (SPN), known nationally as ILINet.

Response

- The Unified-Command Group (UCG) is increasing testing of vulnerable populations in the coming weeks, including widespread testing of all long-term care facilities in Tennessee (more than 700 facilities and 70,000 residents) and additional testing sites in minority communities. The State of Tennessee has partnered with the National Health Care Corporation to test all residents and staff within their 38 Tennessee facilities.
- TDH will offer 16 drive-through events across the state this weekend to make COVID-19 testing available to Tennesseans who are concerned about their health or the health of their family members.
- Gov. Lee issued Executive Order 31 to extend the prohibition of non-emergency dental services to May 6.
- Gov. Lee announced that close contact services, such as salons and barbershops, in 89 of Tennessee's 95 counties will be able to reopen at limited capacity on May 6.
- TDH is recruiting medical professionals through the Medical Reserve Corps Program.
- Ongoing TDH activities include:
  - 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 close contacts of cases.
  - Utilizing the Healthcare Resource Tracking System to monitor personal protective equipment inventories and strain on the healthcare system.
  - Supporting state laboratory testing.

Important Reminders

- The "Tennessee Pledge," a plan to help Tennesseans return to work in a safe environment, restore their livelihoods and reboot the state's economy, was developed by Gov. Lee, the UCG and Tennessee's Economic Recovery Group with input from health experts, state and local partners and business and industry leaders. It includes specific recommendations which enable most businesses to reopen responsibly without the burden of heavy mandates. This will be a gradual process, with room to adjust as changing data are evaluated.
  - Restaurants and retail outlets in 89 counties are now operating at 50% capacity.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).
- 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 the Tennessee Economic Recovery Group:
- General Guidelines | Restaurant Industry | Retail Industry | Exercise Facilities

Recent Guidance from CDC:
- Updated: Frequently Asked Questions | Dental Settings | Hand Hygiene Recommendations | What to Do If You Are Sick | Staffing Resources | COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country | Cases in the U.S. | Testing in the U.S. | World Map