June 26, 2020 Update

Surveillance
- Please visit the 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 highest day of cases since the pandemic began occurred this week and the daily average number of COVID-19 cases across Tennessee increased from the previous week.
- Numerous counties have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases across the state. Granular information by county is available online.
- Recent estimates are that approximately half of all infections are from an unknown source and the number of contacts per case has increased.
- Although COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased, they represent ~5% of all hospitalized patients in TN, and hospital capacity remains stable across Tennessee.

Response
- A formalized approach to jurisdictions with an increase in cases plan is being developed by the Unified Command Group. A number of factors are considered in identifying areas with increases in cases (new case rate, testing rates, positivity rate, clusters, disparities in a specific populations).
- The Unified Command Group outlined the standard public health responses to an increase in cases:
  - Increased public messaging
  - Outreach and coordination with local community and unique population groups
  - Increasing testing access and availability
  - Prevention messaging
- A TNHAN was released on Wednesday with updates to providers and the public about the increasing case counts, remdisivir, MIS-C cases and PPE decontamination, among other topics.
- TDH worked with a number of partners to develop a COVID-19 Agricultural Settings Booklet, which is now available in English and Spanish.
- Mask distribution continues at health departments, and with additional distribution to partners such as Tennessee Highway Patrol, Welcome Centers, etc.
- TDH currently has over 750 staff members performing COVID-19 contact tracing activities statewide in coordination with county health departments and TDH's central and regional offices. Tennessee's long-term care facilities are reinstating visitations under specific safety protocols and hospital capacity remains stable across Tennessee.

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, personal protective equipment inventories and strain on the healthcare system.
- Recruiting medical professionals through the Medical Reserve Corps Program.
- Supporting state laboratory testing.

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 where social distancing is difficult.
- 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: Special Populations Data in the U.S. | Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy | Evidence used to update the list of underlying medical conditions that increase a person's risk of severe illness from COVID-19 | People Who Are At Increased Risk for Severe Illness | People Who Live in a Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Facility | People of Any Age with Underlying Medical Conditions