TENNESSEE UPDATE (March 20, 2020)

Surveillance

- Please visit the TDH COVID-19 webpage for the most up-to-date case count.
- The TDH State Public Health Laboratory and commercial laboratories have increased capacity to test for the virus causing COVID-19.

Response

- The TDH State Health Operations Center (SHOC) is activated.
- Hundreds of public health staff are monitoring the situation and working closely with CDC, other state agencies, and metro/regional health departments to protect the people of Tennessee.
- Ongoing TDH activities include:
  - Establishing assessment locations at local health departments.
  - Maintaining an up-to-date list of assessment sites statewide on the COVID-19 website.
  - Operating information lines for public inquiries (>2800 calls since 3/5/20).
  - Maintaining a clinician's consultation line within the SHOC (4,313 calls since 1/20/20).
  - Sharing information via social media networks and the TDH COVID-19 webpage (over 2 million views since January).
  - Conducting telebriefings for healthcare providers, hospitals, and partner agencies.
  - Investigating cases, tracing contacts, and monitoring close contacts of cases.
  - Developing and disseminating guidance documents.
  - Utilizing the Healthcare Resource Tracking System to monitor critical inventories.
  - Supporting state laboratory testing.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Wash your hands often with soap and water (or alcohol-based hand rub) for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing. Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm or a tissue and immediately throw it away.
- Clean and disinfect objects (e.g., cell phone, computer) and high-touch surfaces regularly.
- Practice social distancing by staying six feet away from others and avoiding unnecessary travel.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

RECENT GUIDANCE UPDATES FROM CDC

- Resources for Large Community Events & Mass Gatherings
- Interim Recommendations for U.S. Households with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019
- Guidance for Caring for Someone at Home
- Healthcare Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers