TENNESSEE UPDATE (March 13, 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 substantially increased the capacity to test for the virus causing COVID-19.

Response

- TDH activated the State Health Operations Center (SHOC) on January 16th and staff are closely monitoring the evolving global and domestic situation.
- Hundreds of public health staff across the state are working on preparedness and response activities.
- Ongoing TDH activities include:
  - Operating information lines for public inquiries (>1100 calls since 3/5/20).
  - Maintaining a clinician's consultation line within the SHOC (1,496 calls since 3/6/20).
  - Sharing information via social media networks and the TDH COVID-19 webpage (600,000 hits since 3/6/20).
  - Conducting telebriefings for healthcare providers, media, and partner agencies.
  - Investigating cases, tracing contacts, and monitoring close contacts associated with cases.
  - Developing and disseminating guidance documents.
  - Utilizing the Healthcare Resource Tracking System to monitor critical inventories.
  - Supporting state laboratory testing.
- TDH is also working closely with CDC, other state agencies, and metro/regional health departments to protect the people of Tennessee.

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 eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm or a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect objects (e.g., cell phone, computer) and high-touch surfaces regularly.

RECENT GUIDANCE UPDATES FROM CDC

- Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities
- Interim Guidance for Law Enforcement
- Interim Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings
- Guidance for People at Risk For Serious Illness
- Guidance for Cruise Ship Travel