TENNESSEE UPDATE (March 27, 2020)

**Surveillance**
- Please visit the [TDH COVID-19 webpage](https://www.tn.gov/health/coronavirus) 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:
  - Supporting COVID-19 assessments 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 (>5,000 calls since 3/5/20).
  - Maintaining a clinician's consultation line within the SHOC (5,353 calls since 1/20/20).
  - Sharing information via social media networks and the TDH COVID-19 webpage (Over 7 million reached on Twitter, 2 million on Facebook, 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 personal protective equipment (PPE) inventories and strain on the healthcare system.
  - 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.
- 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 and stay home when you are sick.

**RECENT GUIDANCE UPDATES FROM CDC**
- What to Expect if You Were [Possibly Exposed](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pandemic-resources/what-to-expect-if-you-were-possibly-exposed.html)
- Comprehensive [Hospital Preparedness Checklist](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hospital/preparedness.html) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)