

COVID-19: Background & Additional Information

Up-To-Date Information

- The most up-to-date information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#)). You are also encouraged to follow HHS, CDC, and other agency social media channels for up-to-date information.
- The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent national briefings which can be viewed live ([here \[whitehouse.gov\]](#))
- Community Guidance
 - The President's Guidelines for America: 15 Days to Slow the Spread ([here \[whitehouse.gov\]](#))
 - HHS/CDC Community Framework for Mitigation ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
 - Guidance for families, businesses, schools and others ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
 - What is Social Distancing ([video \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - CDC Print Resources and Fact Sheets ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Informational Videos
 - President Donald J. Trump: Strong & United, We Will Prevail ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - First Lady Melania Trump: A Message from First Lady Melania Trump ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - U.S. Surgeon General: Urgent Need – Health Americans Should Continue Donating Blood ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - U.S. Surgeon General: How Can Millennials Stop the Spread of Coronavirus ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - U.S. Surgeon General: Is It Still Safe to Donate Blood? ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - U.S. Surgeon General: How Can You Engage in Social Distancing? ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - U.S. Surgeon General: How Can You Keep the Most Vulnerable Safe from Coronavirus ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - U.S. Surgeon General: Message to Young People ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - Dr. Deborah Birx: How Can Millennials Fight the Coronavirus ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - Dr. Deborah Birx: What Should Schools Do About ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - Dr. Deborah Birx: Where Can the Coronavirus Live? ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - Dr. Deborah Birx: Who Needs to be Tested for Coronavirus? ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))
 - Dr. Deborah Birx: Protect the People Around You ([here \[youtube.com\]](#))

What You Need To

Know (<https://www.coronavirus.gov/> [[coronavirus.gov](#)])

- What You Should Know - How COVID-19 Spreads, Symptoms, etc. ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Situation Summary ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Travel Information ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#)) – State Department: International Travel ([here \[travel.state.gov\]](#))
- Avoid Scams ([here \[consumer.ftc.gov\]](#))
- Preventing COVID-10 Spread in Communities ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Higher Risk & Special Populations ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Healthcare Professionals ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Resources for Healthcare Facilities ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Resources for Health Departments ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Laboratories ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Communication Resources ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))

Local Preparedness & Response Tips

- Response is locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. Local officials should coordinate requests through their State Emergency Management Agencies.
 - A list of State emergency management agencies can be found [here \[fema.gov\]](#).
 - FEMA guidance on public assistance for States, local governments, tribal governments, and eligible non-profits can be found [here \[fema.gov\]](#).
 - FEMA guidance on public assistance for tribal governments can be found [here \[fema.gov\]](#).
- Proactively sharing and disseminating *verified and accurate* guidance and information through social media, newsletters, and other avenues:
 - CDC Mitigation Guidance – [15 Days to Slow the Spread \[whitehouse.gov\]](#)
 - HHS/CDC [guidance for families, businesses, and schools \[cdc.gov\]](#)
 - HHS/CDC [Community Mitigation Framework \[cdc.gov\]](#)
 - FEMA [Coronavirus Rumor Control Website \[fema.gov\]](#)
 - FTC [Coronavirus Scams Resource Website \[consumer.ftc.gov\]](#)

- Ensuring clear, open lines of communication with the public and making information and guidance readily available.
- Inventorying resources and proactively coordinating with State and local health authorities.
- Reviewing and implementing local preparedness plans and strategies.

Agency Resources and Contact Information

Below, please find agency-by-agency information, guidance, and contact information.

Resources – Below, please find agency-by-agency resources and guidance.

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([here \[cdc.gov\]](#))
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid ([here \[cms.gov\]](#))
- Federal Trade Commission ([here \[consumer.ftc.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration ([here \[fda.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Education ([here \[ed.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Agriculture ([here \[usda.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Small Business Administration ([here \[sba.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Labor ([here \[osha.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security ([here \[dhs.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of State ([here \[travel.state.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ([here \[publichealth.va.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ([here \[epa.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of the Interior ([here \[doi.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Energy ([here \[energy.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Commerce ([here \[commerce.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Justice ([here \[justice.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ([here \[hud.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Department of the Treasury ([here \[home.treasury.gov\]](#))
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([here \[dni.gov\]](#))
- U.S. Election Assistance Commission ([here \[eac.gov\]](#))

Contact Information – Response to COVID-19 is locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. Local elected officials should collaborate with and work through their local emergency management office up through the State Emergency Management Agency, which works in collaboration with FEMA and HHS. Should particular issues arise outside of these appropriate channels, please find contact

information for our Intergovernmental Affairs colleagues across the federal family. As State and local elected officials, they are your primary points of contact.

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Darcie Johnston (Phone – 202-690-1058 / Email – darcie.johnston@hhs.gov)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Cherie Short (Phone – 202-893-2941 / Email – cherie.short@hq.dhs.gov)
- U.S. Department of State: Bill Killion (Phone – 202-647-7595 / Email – killionw@state.gov)
- U.S. Department of Transportation: Sean Poole (Office – 202-597-5109 / Cell – 202-366-3132 / Email – sean.poole@dot.gov)
- U.S. Department of Education: Susan Falconer (Phone – 202-320-6837 / Email – susan.falconer@ed.gov)
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Thayer Verschoor (Phone – 202-461-7385 / Email – Thayer.verschoor@va.gov)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Britt Carter (Phone – 202-440-0728 / Email – carter.brittany@epa.gov)
- U.S. Small Business Administration: Ryan Lambert (Phone – 202-615-6570 / Email – ryan.lambert@sba.gov)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: Lillie Brady (Phone – 202-845-3872 / Email - lillie.brady@usda.gov)

Federal Agency Programs & Action Overview

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to providing as much information as possible to prepare communities for response to COVID-19. The Department, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and other agencies, continuously provide guidance to healthcare providers, laboratories, communities, and state and local officials for dealing with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. The most up-to-date information can be found at www.coronavirus.gov [[coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)] and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> [[cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)]
- Guidance
 - CMS released two **telehealth toolkits** today to help practitioners understand the broadened access to Medicare telehealth services so that

beneficiaries can receive a wider range of services from their doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility. Under this new waiver, Medicare can pay for office, hospital, and other visits furnished via telehealth across the country and including in patient's places of residence starting March 6, 2020. A range of providers, such as doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers, will be able to offer telehealth to their patients. The toolkit for General Practitioners can be found [here \[cms.gov\]](#) and for ESRD providers [here \[cms.gov\]](#).

- CDC released interim guidance to help prevent workplace exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, in non-healthcare settings. The guidance also provides planning considerations if there are more widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19. The guidance can be found [here \[cdc.gov\]](#).
- FDA issued a new policy that allows for expanded use of devices to monitor patients' vital signs remotely. The devices include those that measure body temperature, respiratory rate, heart rate and blood pressure. The guidance can be found [here \[fda.gov\]](#).
- CMS released recommendations to delay non-essential procedures in an effort to preserve personal protective equipment (PPE), beds, and ventilators for facilities as well as to free up health care workers to treat patients with COVID-19. The recommendations provide a framework for hospitals and clinicians to implement immediately to determine and identify non-essential and elective procedures. The recommendations and guidelines can be found [here \[cms.gov\]](#)
- CDC released PPE guidance that will provide guidance in PPE shortages, particularly for long-term care facilities, dialysis, and home health providers. The strategies include information specific to eye protection, isolation gowns, facemasks, and N95 respirators. The information can be found [here \[cdc.gov\]](#)
- CDC's Prepare to Care for COVID-19 is a resource with practical tools clinicians can use to care for patients with COVID-19, and will be regularly updated to help clinicians adapt as the outbreak unfolds. More information can be found [here \[cdc.gov\]](#).
- CDC released guidance for responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (more [here \[cdc.gov\]](#)).