

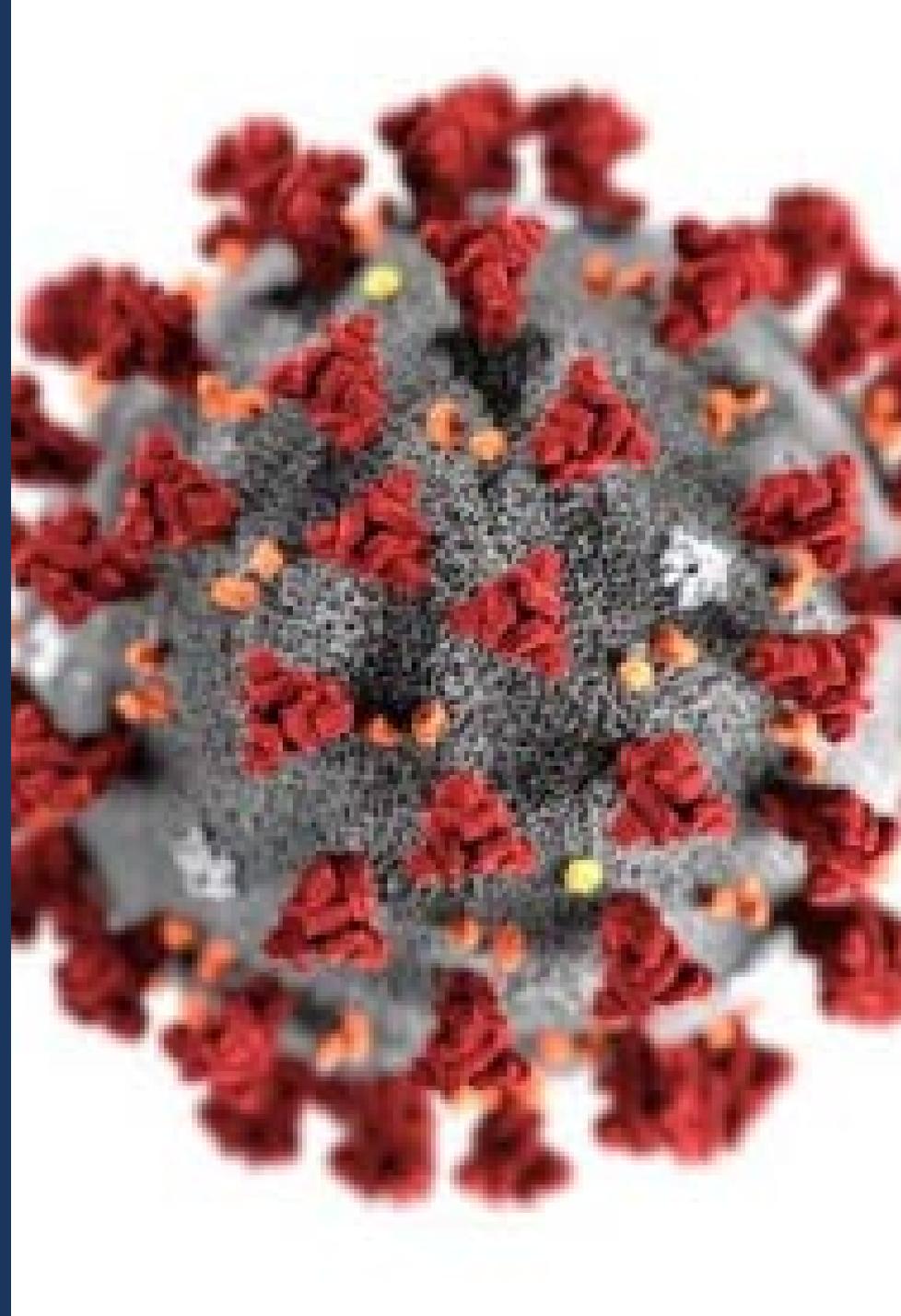
TN

Department of  
**Health**

# Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## Community Preparedness

Communicable and Environmental Diseases and  
Emergency Preparedness Program,  
East Tennessee Regional Health Office,  
March 9, 2020



# **THIS IS A RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION.**

**The information provided is considered  
current as of March 9, 2020**

**To ensure that you have the most up-to-  
date information for your area of interest,  
please refer **DIRECTLY** to the links  
provided in this presentation.**

# Outline

- Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) Role and Organization
- Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Overview
- Group-specific Information to Prepare for COVID-19
- Questions



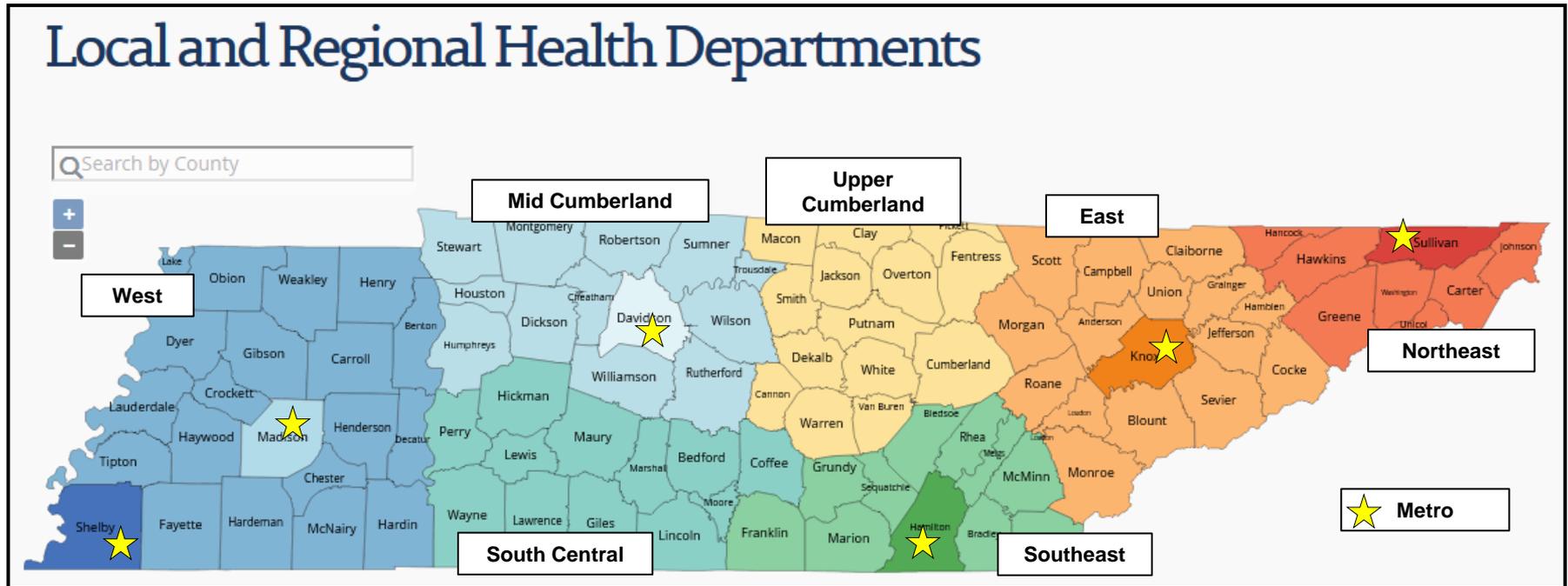
# TDH Role and Organization

# Tennessee Department of Health

- TDH is charged by law (TCA 4-3-1803) with a wide variety of powers and duties that protect the public's health, safety and welfare, including:
  - Regulating health care professionals
  - **Investigating causes of disease, especially epidemics**
  - Investigating causes of mortality
  - Advising utilities regarding public water supply and sewerage systems
  - Inspecting hospitals, nursing homes, institutions, and correctional facilities
  - Publishing reports relating to the prevention of diseases and the health and sanitary condition of the state
  - Administering programs mandated by the legislature (TB Elimination, TennCare, Children's Special Services, Family Planning, Substance Abuse Treatment, etc.)

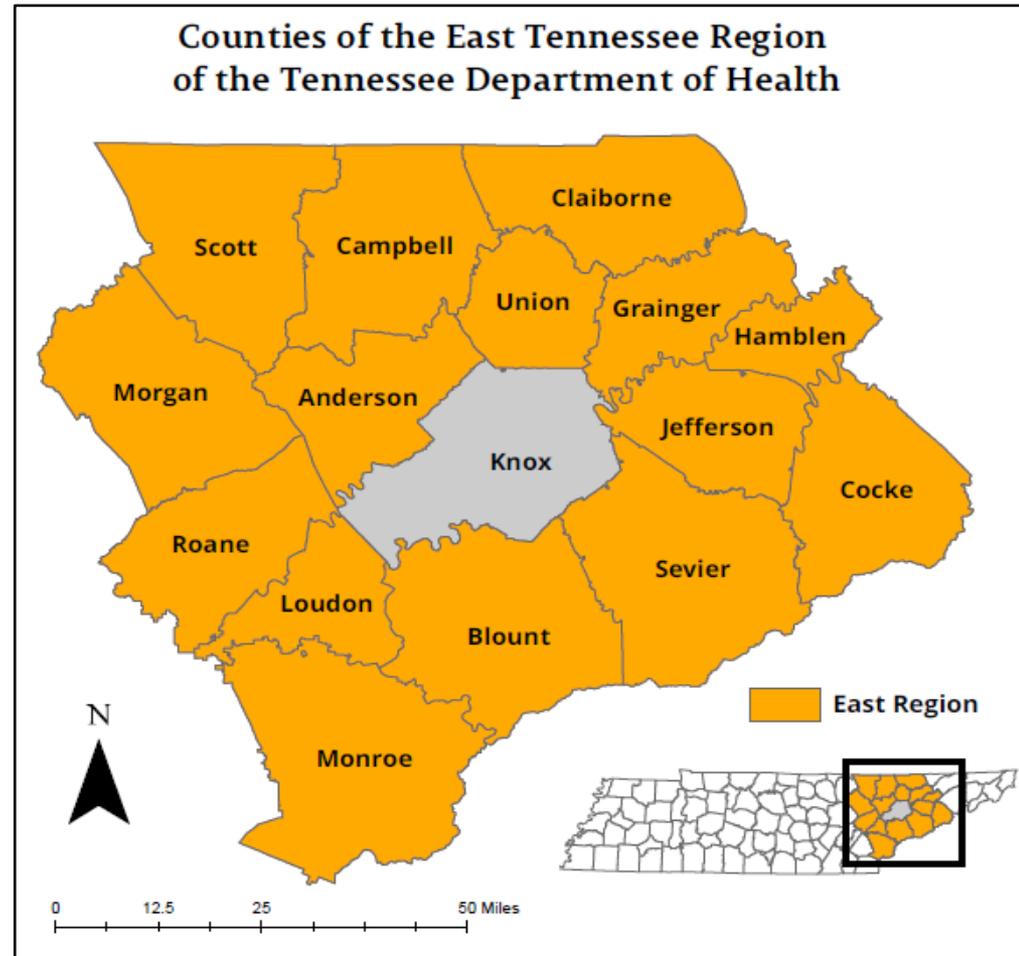
# Tennessee Department of Health (2)

- Each of the 95 counties has a health department and most of these are grouped into regions
- Metropolitan areas (6 large counties) are independent



# Tennessee Department of Health (3)

- The East Tennessee Region (ETR) consists of 15 counties surrounding but excluding Knox County
- ETR provides administrative direction, including communicable disease investigation and surveillance as well as emergency preparedness planning and response





# Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

# Situation Summary

In December 2019, Chinese health authorities identified an outbreak of pneumonia associated with a novel, or new, coronavirus which has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases in China. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the United States. There are ongoing investigations to learn more.

CDC's COVID-19 webpage for the most up to date information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

# Current Risk Assessment

- For most of the American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.
- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated, though still relatively low risk of exposure.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.

# COVID-19 Symptoms

- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure (median ~5 days)

**FEVER**



**COUGHING**



**SHORTNESS OF BREATH**



- Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases

# COVID-19 Risk for Serious Illness

- Early information out of China, where COVID-19 first started, shows that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. This includes:
  - Older adults
  - People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
    - Heart disease
    - Diabetes
    - Lung disease
- If you are at increased risk for COVID-19 complications due to age or a severe underlying medical condition, it is especially important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of exposure.

# COVID-19 Transmission

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (~6 feet)
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects
  - It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.
  - Not thought to be the main way the virus spreads

# COVID-19 Transmission (2)

Can someone spread the virus without being sick?

- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

# COVID-19 Prevention

- There is currently no vaccine.
- CDC **DOES NOT** recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

# COVID-19 Prevention (2)

Following everyday preventive actions is the **BEST** way to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol

# COVID-19 Treatment

- There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19.
- People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.
- For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions.



**What is public health  
doing about COVID-19?**

# TDH Response

- Activated State Health Operations Center January 16, 2020 in preparation to respond to any identified cases in Tennessee and to closely monitor the evolving global and domestic situation
- Ongoing preparedness and response activities by hundreds of public health staff across the state
- Created COVID-19 web page with resources for public created that is updated regularly
- Working closely with CDC and other agencies to ensure most up-to-date guidance and recommendations are implemented to protect the people of Tennessee
- Monitoring healthy returning travelers from China

# TDH Response (2)

- Assisting hospitals with preparedness plans
- Launched public information line in conjunction with the Tennessee Poison Center on March 5, 2020
- Creating and disseminating general information and education to communities, public, and stakeholders; establishing routine communication with the same
- Ongoing surveillance for additional cases through consultation with clinical providers and testing of specimens at the TN State Public Health Laboratory
- Conducting case investigation, contact tracing, and monitoring of close contacts associated with known COVID-19 cases

# Hospital Preparedness

TDH works closely with hospitals to ensure they are ready for COVID-19. This can include assisting hospitals with:

- Completing facility risk assessments
- Implementing CDC's Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool
- Developing plans for maintaining, optimizing, and using personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended by CDC
- Applying strategies to prevent transmission in hospitals
- Conducting tabletop exercises to practice for a real event
- Utilization of systems that track critical hospital resources such as beds, ventilators, and isolation rooms

# How does public health contain the spread of COVID-19?

- For cases of COVID-19 identified in Tennessee, public health will conduct a process called contact tracing.
- Public health talks with the patient to determine who they had close contact with during the time they were infectious.
- Based on details obtained, public health will determine which contacts are at higher risk of infection.
- These contacts are asked to remain at home for a certain number of days, avoiding work, school, and public places.

## How does public health contain the spread of COVID-19? (2)

- Public health keeps in touch with these people during this time to see if they are healthy.
- If the person does not become ill within the certain number of days, they can go back to their daily routine.
- If the person does become ill, public health will facilitate the appropriate clinical follow-up.
- If the person is determined to be infected with COVID-19, the contact tracing process will begin all over again with this person. HOWEVER, if this individual has been self-isolating as recommended by public health, they should not have exposed any new persons that need monitoring. This thereby limits spread of disease.



# Community Preparation for COVID-19

# Preparedness: Family/Household

- Family COVID-19 preparedness looks a lot like other plans you may already have for other emergencies.
- Practice good personal health habits and plan for home-based actions.
- Be prepared if your child's school or childcare facility is temporarily canceled.
- Plan for potential changes at your workplace.
- Start discussing ways to care for anyone who could become ill.
- Create emergency contact lists with household members, other relatives, and friends.
- Ensure proper hand-hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Ensure that you have adequate supply of any prescription medications.
- Full guidance:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>

# Preparedness: Childcare & K-12 Schools

- Review and update your current emergency preparedness/operations plans.
- If your school **HAS NOT** had a confirmed case of COVID-19, consider:
  - Emphasizing hand-washing, cough etiquette, and staying home if sick
  - Establishing procedures for students and staff becoming or arriving sick at school
  - Monitoring, planning and establishing a procedure for absenteeism
  - Developing an information sharing system if one does not exist
  - Performing routine cleaning
- If your school **HAS** a confirmed case of COVID-19, childcare and school administrators should work in close collaboration and coordination with local/state health officials to make dismissal and large event cancellation decisions.
- Full guidance:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

# Preparedness: Colleges and Universities

- Review emergency operations plans and make sure students and staff are up to date on the latest plan.
- Ensure campus-wide communications are able to be utilized.
- Create sick leave and class attendance policies to encourage sick individuals to stay home.
- Educate all students on infectious disease prevention (hand hygiene, coughing etc.).
- Provide hand hygiene stations in common areas.
- Routinely clean high touch surfaces in common areas (e.g. doorknobs, handrails, etc.).
- Follow business preparedness as well.
- Full guidance:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>

# Preparedness: Businesses

- Encourage sick employees to stay home; update sick leave policies to facilitate this goal.
- Educate employees on proper hand hygiene and coughing into their elbow/tissue. Have masks available for employees who develop a cough; still send them home.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces. Encourage employees to work from home if possible.
- If you have many employees who travel, consider changing travel plans to minimize risks. Provide education to travelers on what to do if they develop symptoms. Have these employees work from home.

- Full guidance

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html)

# Preparedness: Community/Faith-Based Organizations

- Develop a plan and keep all employees informed.
- Identify individuals at an increased risk (e.g. elderly, high exposure) and provide increased education/resources to them.
- Encourage sick individuals/employees to stay home.
- Refer to Mass Gathering Resource (next slide) for special events.
- Consider altering or cancelling events.
- Provide hand hygiene stations and education on hand washing and coughing.
- Encourage members to engage remotely (e.g. Skype, livestream) when possible.
- Full guidance  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

# Preparedness: Large Events/Mass Gatherings

- Be up to date on the spread of COVID-19 in your community and in potential attendees.
- Know who is attending your events.
- Have an organization-wide plan for employees.
- Advise sick employees and attendees to stay home.
- Explore remote attendance (e.g., live-streaming).
- Consider cancelling or limiting attendance.
- Provide handwashing equipment and hygiene education at event
- Have a process for dealing with symptomatic attendees (e.g., entry screening, isolation).
- Develop refund policies for attendees.
- Full guidance  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html>

# Preparedness: Healthcare Settings

- Encourage patients to call in or use other telehealth options if they develop respiratory symptoms; use this as a way to triage cases.
- Instruct patients to call ahead and, if possible, arrive masked.
- Develop a plan to optimize PPE usage; refer to CDC guidance on strategies (below).
- Have signage/hand washing stations/masks at entry points.
- Develop a plan to spatially separate patients with respiratory symptoms (6 feet ideal). **Facility type specific guidance found in resource below.**
- Develop a process for providers to inform the state of potential cases. For suspect patients, call 615-741-7247. They will decide if testing is warranted based off of specific travel, symptom, and alternative diagnosis factors. If testing is approved, proper PPE must be used or the patient should be transferred somewhere with that capability.
- Full guidance  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html>
- N95 Supply Optimization:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Frespirator-supply-strategies.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Frespirator-supply-strategies.html)

# Preparedness: EMS

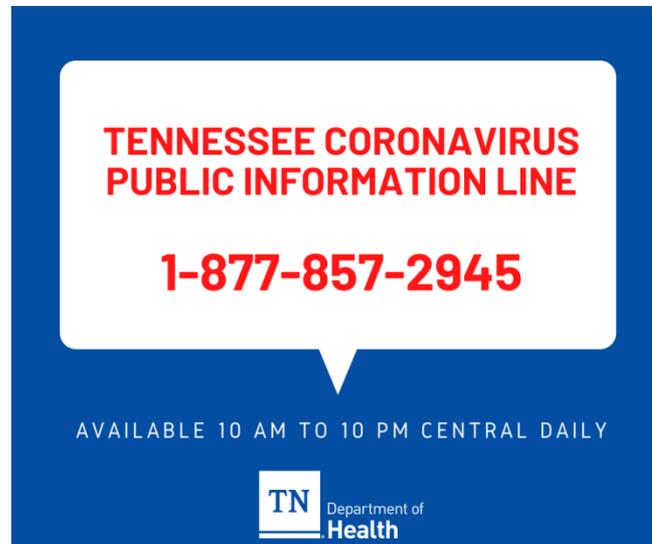
- Develop plans to ensure close coordination and effective communication among 911 call centers, the EMS system, healthcare facilities, and the public health system.
- Have infection control policies and procedures in place.
- Personnel should be educated on infection control and appropriate use of PPE; they should follow standard, contact, and airborne precautions.
- Be familiar with guidance specific to transport and cleaning of transport vehicles.
- Full guidance  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/first-responders.html>



# Resources, Guidelines, and References

# TDH COVID-19 Resources

- **TDH COVID-19 website** with info for public, healthcare providers, and labs, as well as hospital preparedness tools  
<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>
- **Daily Key Points**  
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/CDC-Daily-Key-Points.pdf>
- **Tennessee Weekly Situation Summary**  
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TDH-COVID-19-Sit-Summary-Week.pdf>
- **Press Releases**  
<https://www.tn.gov/health/news.html>
- **Tennessee Coronavirus Public Information Line**



**TENNESSEE CORONAVIRUS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION LINE**

**1-877-857-2945**

AVAILABLE 10 AM TO 10 PM CENTRAL DAILY

**TN** Department of Health

The graphic is a blue square with a white speech bubble in the center. Inside the speech bubble, the text "TENNESSEE CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC INFORMATION LINE" is written in red, bold, uppercase letters. Below that, the phone number "1-877-857-2945" is also in red, bold, uppercase letters. At the bottom of the blue square, the text "AVAILABLE 10 AM TO 10 PM CENTRAL DAILY" is written in white, uppercase letters. In the bottom right corner of the blue square, there is a logo for the Tennessee Department of Health, consisting of a white square with "TN" in blue, followed by the words "Department of Health" in white.

# CDC COVID-19 Resources

- **United States Case Counts**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

- **COVID-19 Fact Sheet**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

- **COVID-19 Information for Travel**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

- **Latest News**

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus-2020.html>

- **Frequently Asked Questions**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

# CDC COVID-19 Resources (2)

- **Guidance for Home**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>

- **Guidance for Childcare & K-12 Schools**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

- **Guidance for Colleges and Universities**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>

- **Guidance for Businesses**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html)

# CDC COVID-19 Resources (3)

- **Guidance for Community- & Faith-Based Organizations**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

- **Guidance for Community Events & Mass Gatherings**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html>

- **Guidance for Healthcare Settings**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html>

- **Guidance for EMS**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/first-responders.html>

# Other COVID-19 Resources

- **John Hopkins COVID-19 Global Case Count Map**

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

- **EPA List of Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>



QUESTIONS?