

CDC Key Points
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) Pandemic
April 15, 2020 as of 8:30 pm

Updated text is shown in colored text.

Please note that Key Points will now be published on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. CDC may issue an off-schedule Key Points update if there is urgent information to share.

SNAPSHOT

- CDC has reported:
 - 605,390 confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19
 - 24,582 COVID-19-related deaths
 - All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have reported cases of COVID-19.

MAIN KEY POINTS

- The United States is in the [acceleration phase of the COVID-19 pandemic](#).
- There are nationwide efforts to [slow the spread](#) and blunt the impact of this disease on the United States.
- All segments of U.S. society have a role to play:
 - People across the country are asked to stay home as much as possible and otherwise practice social distancing.
 - CDC [recommends that everyone use a cloth face covering](#) in community settings to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - Children under the age of 2 should not use a cloth face covering.
 - People who are sick are asked to follow CDC [guidance on recovering at home](#) and follow the new guidance for when [it's OK to interact with other people again](#).
- The U.S. government announced [new guidance](#) to help the most critical workers serving on the front lines to quickly return to work after potential exposure to someone with COVID-19, provided those workers are symptom-free.
 - As the nation works together to help slow the spread of COVID-19, certain workers are essential to protecting the health and safety of Americans every day by keeping the lights on and the water running.
 - These employees should be screened before entering work, monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms, wear a cloth face covering, and continue to practice social distancing.
 - See section “Recent MMWRs Publications.”

SITUATION UPDATE

- 605,390 reported cases of COVID-19 have been detected in all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - Most U.S. states now report some community spread of COVID-19. Of those, 34 states report COVID-19 cases are “widespread.”
 - See [CDC's map](#) to stay up to date on what is happening in your state.
- As of 4/14, CDC's case count and death count includes both confirmed and probable cases and deaths. [The Cases in the U.S. page](#) has added a footnote under the map to explain.

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- CDC is also adding [demographic characteristics](#) to the US Cases page. Additional demographic data will be added later this week.
- The number of cases of COVID-19 being reported in the United States is rising quickly.
 - Early on, most cases in the United States were among returned travelers from affected countries or close contacts of people who had COVID-19.
 - Now, more and more cases are resulting from community spread where the source of the exposure is unknown.
- As of April 15, 95 state and local public health labs in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and [U.S. Virgin Islands](#) verified they are successfully using COVID-19 diagnostic tests.
 - See [map showing which states and territories have one or more laboratories that have successfully verified and are currently using COVID-19 diagnostic tests](#).
- As of April 15, [CDC and local and state public health laboratories had tested](#) a total of 321,927 specimens.
 - Private laboratories are also increasing their testing capacity.
 - In addition, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) has issued a number of Emergency Use Authorizations for commercial manufacturers to develop other COVID-19 tests, including a point-of-care test that could deliver results in as short as 30 minutes.
- Systems are being set up for public health, commercial, and clinical laboratories to report their testing data to CDC. This information will be provided routinely.
- More cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the United States in the coming days, including more instances of community spread.
 - In the coming months, most of the U.S. population will be exposed to this virus.
 - CDC expects more illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 illness to continue to occur.
 - CDC will transition to using surveillance systems that have been modified to track COVID-19 when it is no longer feasible to continue tracking individual cases.

RECENT MMWR PUBLICATIONS

CDC released two MMWRs on April 14 that contain the first preliminary description of data related to COVID-19 and U.S. healthcare personnel (HCP). Because HCP are essential members of the nation's workforce and are on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19, they may be at increased risk of acquiring COVID-19.

- [Preliminary Estimates of Characteristics Among Healthcare Personnel with Coronavirus Disease 2019 — United States, February 12–April 9, 2020](#)
 - More than 9,000 COVID-19 cases in HCP were identified from more than 300,000 cases reported to CDC between February 12–April 9, 2020.
 - Of those cases, 73 % were female, and the median age was 42 years old.
 - HCP reported contact to patients with COVID-19 in healthcare, household, and community settings, though more than half (55%) reported having contact only in a healthcare setting.
 - Only 16 % of COVID-19 cases reported to CDC included data on healthcare personnel status, so this is likely an underestimate. Additional data are needed to

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- confirm findings about the impact of important factors, such as disparities in race and ethnicity or underlying health conditions within this group.
 - CDC is encouraging more expanded data collection on industry, occupation, and workplace exposures; exploring other data sources will also improve our understanding of the effect of COVID-19 on other worker groups and better inform the implementation of infection prevention and control measures.
- Transmission of COVID-19 to healthcare personnel during exposures to a hospitalized patient — Solano County, California, February 2020
 - This article documents the spread of COVID-19 to healthcare personnel (HCP) during exposures to a hospitalized patient in Solano County, California.
 - These were among the first known HCP infected with COVID-19 at work in the United States
 - A total of 121 HCP had documented exposure to the patient; about one-third (43) had symptoms and were subsequently tested; 3 tested positive.
 - This report underscores that unprotected, prolonged contact with a patient with unrecognized COVID19 might put HCP at increased risk for developing COVID-19.
 - Early recognition, source control (i.e., the patient wearing a mask), and isolation of patients with possible infection can help minimize unprotected, high-risk exposures of HCP and protect the healthcare workforce.

CDC GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES UPDATES

Guidance documents and resources recently posted to the CDC website included:

- [Data Visualization](#), which contains the latest graphs associated with COVID MMWR Reports.
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting for Non-Emergency Transport Vehicles: Interim Recommendations for U.S. Non-emergency Transport Vehicles that May Have Transported Passengers with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\).](#)

Updates to previously posted guidance documents and resources:

- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- [Groups at Higher Risk for Severe Illness](#)
- [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
- [World Map](#)
- [Cases in the U.S.](#)
- [Testing in the U.S.](#)

OLDER RESOURCES POSTED TO CDC WEBSITE

- [Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities](#) offers guidance for the use and administration of local, state, and national parks.
- [Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19 When Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities](#) provides steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 while visiting parks.

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- [Resources for Parks and Recreational Facilities](#) offers tips to protect park visitors, workers, and administrators.

Updates

- [Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#)
- [Cases in U.S.](#)
- [Testing in the U.S.](#)
- [Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers](#)
- [Schools, Workplaces & Community Locations](#) -
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Coronavirus and Travel in the United States](#)
- [Guidance for Childcare Programs That Remain Open](#)

Recent COVIDView additions:

- [National Syndromic Surveillance Program \(NSSP\): Emergency Department Visits Percentage of Visits for COVID-19-Like Illness \(CLI\) or Influenza-like Illness \(ILI\) September 29, 2019 - April 4, 2020 Data as of April 9, 2020](#)
- [NCHS Mortality Surveillance Data](#)
- [U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network \(ILINet\): Percentage of Visits for ILI by Age Group Reported by A Subset of ILINet Providers September 29, 2019 - April 4, 2020 Data as of April 9, 2020](#)
- [U.S. Clinical Laboratories Reporting SARS-CoV-2 Test Results to CDC](#)
- [U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network \(ILINet\): Overall Percentage of Visits for ILI](#)
- [U.S. State and Local Public Health Laboratories Reporting to CDC](#)
- [FAQ: COVID-19 Data and Surveillance](#)
- [Interim CDC Guidance on Handling Non-COVID-19 Public Health Activities that Require Face-to-Face Interaction with Clients in the Clinic and Field in the Current COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Cases, Data, and Surveillance](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Everyone can do their part to help respond to this emerging public health threat:
 - The White House Task Force on Coronavirus is asking Americans to [Slow the Spread](#) through April 30.
 - This is a nationwide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of social distancing at all levels of society.
 - CDC developed print resources to promote this message, including a [Stay at home if you are sick!](#) poster.
 - Older people and people of any age with severe chronic conditions should [take special precautions](#) because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.
 - If you are a healthcare provider, use your judgement to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Factors to consider, in addition to clinical symptoms, may include:
 - Does the patient have recent travel from an [affected area](#)?

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- Has the patient been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or patients with pneumonia of unknown cause?
- Does the patient reside in an area where there has been community spread of COVID-19?
- If you are a healthcare provider or a public health responder caring for a COVID-19 patient, please take care of yourself and follow recommended [infection control procedures](#).
- CDC and federal partners recommend that people postpone routine medical or dental care at this time. This will help to reduce the burden on the healthcare system.
 - If you cannot postpone medical treatment, call your provider before visiting to see if they offer consultations by phone or telemedicine.
- People who get a fever or cough should consider whether they might have COVID-19, depending on where they live, their travel history, or other exposures.
 - [More than half of the United States](#) is seeing some level of community spread of COVID-19.
 - [Testing for COVID-19](#) may be accessed through medical providers or public health departments, but there is no treatment for this virus.
 - Most people have mild illness and are able to [recover at home without medical care](#).
- For people who are ill with COVID-19, but are not sick enough to be hospitalized, please follow [CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others](#). People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to [isolate at home during their illness](#).
- If you have been in an affected area or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face [some limitations on your movement and activity](#). [Please follow instructions during this time](#). Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus.

For more information please visit CDC’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic page at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.