



Indiana State Department of Health

Greetings:

As you are aware, businesses, individuals and organizations around the world are making preparations for the potential spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that has heavily impacted a number of countries. The state of Indiana is no exception to these preparations. Whenever a new illness occurs and spreads rapidly, it naturally can cause worry, especially in rapidly evolving situations when information is changing frequently.

At this time, no confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Indiana, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that for the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to the virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is low. However, the CDC also has urged Americans to stay informed and take steps to ensure personal readiness. This is a time to plan, not to panic.

What does this mean for you?

- Regularly practice the same steps you would if you had influenza or another respiratory illness, such as washing your hands thoroughly and often, covering your cough, staying home if you're sick, and regularly disinfecting surfaces (especially in common areas);
- Continue your current workplace practices, reporting to work and communicating if you are ill as you typically would.
- When considering travel, follow the CDC guidance, which you can find [here](#).

My team at the state Department of Health is working diligently under the direction of Governor Eric J. Holcomb to make sure the state is prepared and communicating the latest information about the outbreak. The situation changes rapidly, and I know that can cause concern because we don't have all the answers yet. What we do have, however, is a plan for how to respond if and when COVID-19 comes to Indiana. The state also has acquired the needed test to perform COVID-19 testing for possible cases in Indiana.

We are hosting weekly meetings with county health departments and healthcare providers, are operating a 24/7 call center, have formed a state-level advisory group, are offering guidance to schools and universities, are surveying

providers to gather the most up-to-date information about their capacities and services and are ordering supplies.

We have also launched a dedicated [webpage](#) where you can get the most up-to-date and accurate information. We also have a call center that is open 24 hours a day. The center may be reached at 317-233-7125 from 8:15 am. To 4:45 p.m. Eastern Time and 317-233-1325 after hours.

Although COVID-19 is concerning, influenza remains a larger concern at this time. More than 60 Hoosiers have died from influenza this flu season, and activity remains high across our state. An effective vaccine is available for influenza, and it is not too late to get your flu shot.

We will keep you updated if there are significant changes to the outbreak or to protocol.

Best wishes,

Dr. Kris Box
State Health Commissioner

This message has been sent by the Indiana State Personnel Department
on behalf of the Indiana State Department of Health.