Coronavirus is a type of virus transmitted from animals to humans.

Once a new strain infects humans, it is called a “novel coronavirus” and can cause sicknesses ranging from a common cold to severe respiratory illness. The novel coronavirus spreading in the United States causes coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19. If you have questions about COVID-19, please call the hotline at 866-941-4785.

What if someone in my house becomes sick?
Have a plan. Select room for quarantine. Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.

What can I do to protect myself and my loved ones?
Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid people with flu-like symptoms. Cover your cough with your sleeve or a tissue and dispose. Don’t touch your face, nose, mouth or eyes. Stay away from others in you have flu-like symptoms.

WHAT IF I GET COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)?
Before you go to your doctor:

Call first! Discuss your symptoms.

If your symptoms are considered mild, staying at home is the safest option

If your symptoms are severe, call your closest emergency room before going.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?
Cough, fever, muscle/body aches and difficulty breathing.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?
Close contact with an infected person (within six feet or 10 minutes or more)

Uncovered coughing or sneezing on the other people or surfaces
Physician testing, reporting and diagnosing guide

New CPT code for testing of COVID-19. While TMA’s new app eases telehealth operations for physicians and patients.

1. THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT
   Do you need a platform to provide telehealth services? Tennessee Medical Association has developed an app to facilitate telehealth solutions that are easy on patients and physicians.
   Click here to download the app.

2. PAYER COVERAGE GUIDANCE
   With new guidelines emerging quickly, you need a comprehensive billing guide for COVID-19 telehealth encounters.
   Click here for CMS and commercial payers plans, policies and appropriate CPT code.

3. CPT TESTING CODE 87635
   A new CPT code has been created that streamlines novel coronavirus testing offered by hospitals, health systems and laboratories.
   Click here to review and download the full CPT code descriptors.
   Click here for a fact sheet on new CPT coding guidance.

Follow Reliable Sources
It’s easy to get information overload. Check these sites for current and trusted information.

Center for Disease Control
Click here for their website.

Tennessee Department of Health
Click here for their website.

And, as always
Click here for Memphis Medical Society’s website.
Masking Guidelines
Coverage is key

The Memphis Medical Society

mdmemphis.org

Need PPE? Click here.

ARE N95 MASKS REUSABLE?

Dr. Peter Tsai, M.D., the inventor of the filtration fabric in the N95 mask offers two methods.

N95 REUSE METHOD #1
- Leave a used respirator in dry, atmosphere air for 3-4 days to dry it out. Polypropylene in N95 masks is hydrophobic and contains zero moisture. COVID-19 needs a host to survive. When the respirator is dry in 3-4 days, the virus will not have survived.

N95 REUSE METHOD #2
- You can also sterilize the N95 mask by hanging it in the oven without contacting metal at 70C (158F) for 30 minutes.
- Use a wooden clip to hang the respirator in the oven.
- Keep N95 masks away from UV light and sunlight. N95 masks are degraded by UV light because it damages the electrostatic charges in the polypropylene material.

TIPS FOR BOTH METHODS
- DO NOT place the respirator on a metal surface, or too close to metal. The temperature on the metal surface is higher than the air temperature.
- Keep N95 masks away from UV light and sunlight.
- When removing the mask, hold the edge of the straps. Your hands may be contaminated at this time. Don’t touch the inside part of the respirator. Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds afterward.

WHEN TO MASK

All healthcare workers should use surgical masks in patient environments.
If a patient is suspected of COVID-19, the patient should be masked in a surgical mask as well.
General population does not need to mask unless they are in public settings, such as a grocery store. N95 masks are not for public use. Surgical masks work well for the public.
Care guidelines of triage through release for suspected COVID-19 patients

**TRIAGE & ASSESSMENT**

Does the patient display COVID-19 symptoms? Fever, cough, shortness of breath of difficulty breathing.

If patient is not in a high-risk group and test results will not inform care, be mindful of test shortages, and advise patient that a test is not needed.

If patient is in a high-risk group, testing is appropriate. **Patient must call ahead!** Click here or call 833-943-1658 for sites.

Click here for high-risk groups and PPE guidelines for triage.

**AFTER RECEIVING POSITIVE TEST**

Patient must be isolated while awaiting test results.

Patient must be isolated for a minimum of 14 days after testing.

Household contacts must remain quarantined for 14 days after the patient has been afebrile and is feeling well.

Only if household contacts develop symptoms should they be tested.

COVID-19 is a reportable disease, and must be reported to the health department. 833-943-1658

**WHEN SHOULD ISOLATION END?**

Patient can be released from isolation after afebrile and feeling well (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 72 hours, after initial 14-day isolation.

Household contacts will remain at home after the patient is released due to differing start days of the 14-day requirement.

A negative COVID-19 test can be performed, but it is not required due to test availability.

Click here for a case example.

**QUICK LINKS**

- Center for Disease Control
- Shelby County Health Department
- Memphis Medical Society

Does your clinic need PPE? Click here.

Do you need masking guidelines? Click here

Do you need coding support? Click here

**REMINDEERS**

If a positive COVID-19 test would not change the patient’s care plan (home isolation for 14 days), a test is not needed.

Only people who exhibit symptoms should be tested.