CDC in Action

Updated June 23, 2020

Millions of people are depending on CDC to keep them safe from the threat of COVID-19. CDC is responding to this pandemic by preparing healthcare workers, learning more about how the disease spreads, and supporting state, local, tribal and territorial governments on the front lines of this outbreak.

Preparing first responders, healthcare providers, and health systems

- **CDC** has launched a **new, nationwide initiative** to help enhance and complement the efforts of state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments through innovative hiring mechanisms designed to address their surge staffing needs.
- This response **complements local efforts** to increase capacity using existing CDC field staff, **deploying CDC teams** to address outbreaks in special settings, and **partnering with other federal agencies** like AmeriCorps to give states more staffing options.
- It also provides access to a variety of **contact tracing and case investigation training** products and tools for a diverse and evolving public health workforce.
- CDC is establishing **visibility across healthcare systems**to understand healthcare use, particularly surges in demand for medical care and associated resources.
- We're also **conductingextensive outreach to clinical and hospital professional organizations** to ensure health systems are prepared to treat patients**.**

In addition, CDC:

- Has published **more than 100 guidance documents** to advise healthcare providers on subjects like infection control, hospital preparedness assessments, personal protective equipment (PPE) supply planning, and clinical evaluation and management.
- Has identified **people who are at higher risk** of getting severely ill from this disease and given them steps they can take to keep from getting sick.
- **Created COVID19Surge**, a spreadsheet-based tool that hospital administrators and public health officials can use to estimate the demand for hospital-based services, including how many patients may need ICU care or ventilator support. These data can help hospitals prepare for a possible increase or decrease in cases.
- **Is developing a range of respirator conservation strategies**, including strategies to make supplies last longer (such as using alternative products like reusable respirators) and extending the use of disposable respirators.
- **Is working with supply chain partners** to ensure that healthcare workers at highest risk have access to PPE by understanding supply usage, what products are available, and when more aggressive measures may need to be

taken.

- **Has shared information with stakeholders** to help them recognize when to shift the strategies they are using.

Advising businesses, communities and schools

CDC has provided advice that has evolved as more is known about COVID-19.

- CDC has **published a list of steps** that state and local authorities, businesses, and other institutions can use to plan to scale back community mitigation measures and gradually return to pre-pandemic operations while protecting vulnerable populations.
- These **three-step guidance** allows leaders to look at a series of six indicators, including case counts, emergency room visits, and testing programs, to help decide when to move from one phase to the next.
- Published a list of actions for **people planning events and gatherings** to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during gatherings and events.

CDC Responds to COVID-19

- We're also **providing technical assistance to state and local jurisdictions** on testing, surveillance data collection and reporting, contact tracing, infection prevention and control, and outbreak investigation.
- And for individuals, we offer advice on **how to prevent infection** or **safely return to normal activities** if you have had COVID-19.

In addition, CDC:

- Created a **Community Mitigation Framework** to implement mitigation strategies for communities with local COVID-19 transmission.
- Created **business guidance** to help the public and private sectors ensure they can protect essential workers and help others operate with adaptations like teleworking and flexible sick leave policies.

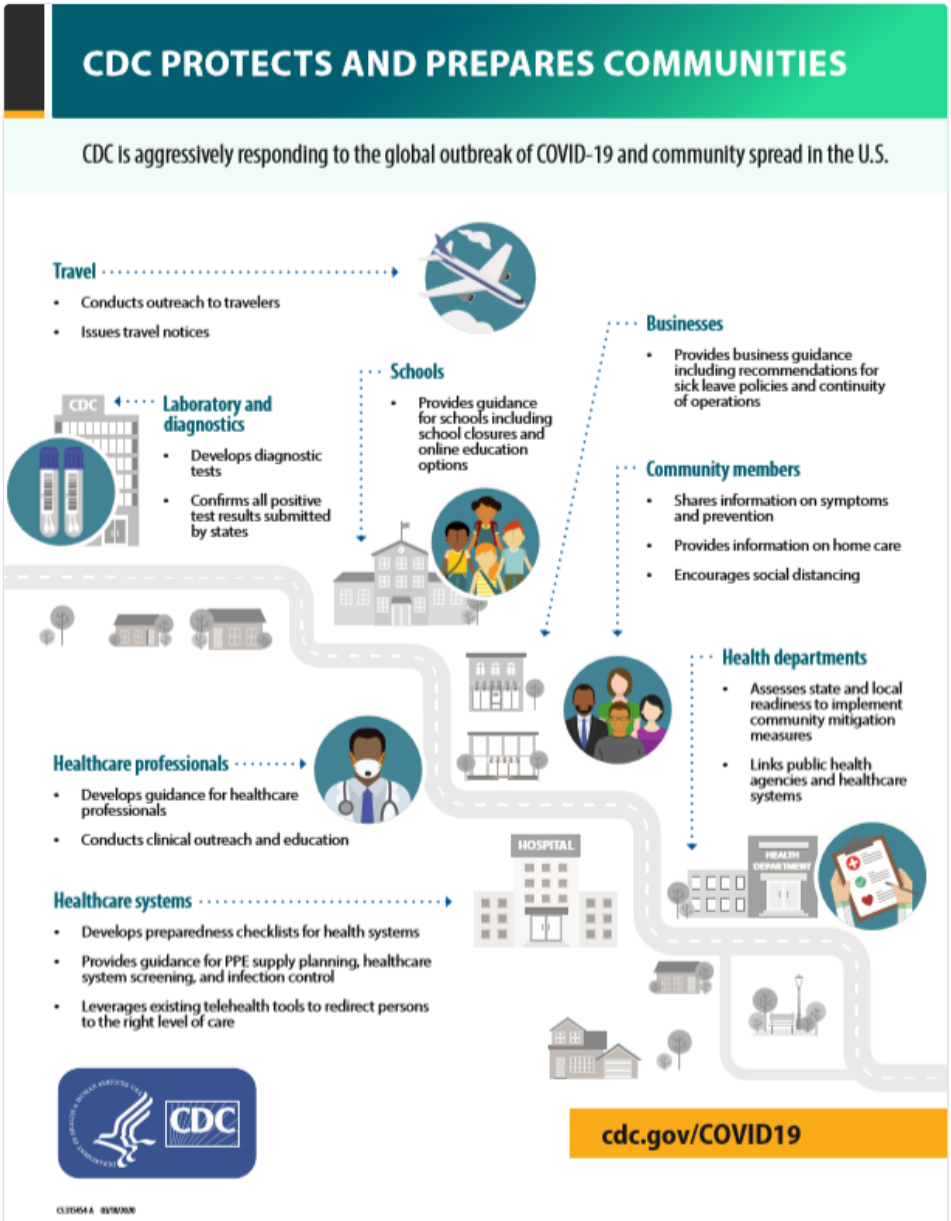
- Developed guidance for **childcare programs, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities** to help them plan and prepare for COVID-19 and respond if there is a local outbreak in their community.

- Provided **planning guides for COVID-19** that households, community- and faith-based organizations, event planners of mass gatherings, and public health communicators can use.

Sharing our knowledge

From the beginning of the pandemic, CDC has been at the forefront of sharing what we've learned about COVID-19.

- The **Household Pulse Survey**, a joint effort by CDC and the US Census Bureau, produces a real-time snapshot of people's mental health and access to care during the pandemic. About 100,000 people a week have answered questions about their physical and mental health, as well as job status, spending, and education. The result is a 50-state picture that can be broken down by geography, age, gender, race and ethnicity, and educational level.
- CDC is leading the **SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing for Public Health Emergency Response, Epidemiology and Surveillance** (SPHERES). This new national genomics consortium will coordinate large-scale, rapid genomic sequencing of the virus that causes COVID-19, allowing public health experts to monitor any changes to the virus, learn more about how it spreads and help identify ways to diagnose and treat the disease.



CDC Protects and Prepares Communities

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Korean
- Vietnamese

- CDC's **Cases, Data and Surveillance** page uses several data streams to track and analyze COVID-19 at the local, state, and national levels.
- CDC developed an rRT-PCR test **to diagnose current COVID-19 infection** and has helped equip state and local public health laboratories with the capacity to test people for the virus.
- CDC has **developed a laboratory serology (antibody) test** to help estimate how many people in the United States have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
  - This test examines blood samples for proteins your body makes in response to an infection.

    - It's designed to estimate how much of the U.S. population has been infected with the virus and learn how the body's immune system responds to the virus.
- CDC has **grown the virus that causes COVID-19** in cell culture, a necessary step for further studies. The cell-grown virus was sent to the National Institutes of Health's BEI Resources Repository for use by the broad scientific community.
- CDC's **COVIDView** page provides weekly updates on testing, hospitalizations, and mortality for COVID-19-like illness (CLI) and influenza-like illness (ILI) nationwide.

In addition:

- CDC's **COVID-NET** program provides standardized national data on laboratory-confirmed hospitalizations.
- CDC's ***Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*** publishes the results of COVID-19 outbreak investigations.
- CDC's scientific journal ***Emerging Infectious Diseases*** has published dozens of studies by researchers studying COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

Maintaining the safety of our borders

CDC has issued extensive COVID-19-related guidance for travelers, both international and domestic, while the U.S. government as a whole has taken unprecedented steps to respond to the public health threat posed by the pandemic.

- CDC maintains a **list of advisories by country** regarding international travel. This includes a list of countries from which travel to the United States is restricted: Brazil, China, Iran, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the 29 European nations of the Schengen Area.
    - Foreign nationals who have been in these countries within the past 14 days cannot enter the United States.
    - U.S. citizens, residents, and their immediate family members who have been to any one of those countries within in the past 14 days can enter the United States, but they are subject to health monitoring and possible quarantine for up to 14 days.
- Between January and May 2020, CDC personnel **screened more than 250,000** arriving international passengers for signs of illness.

In addition:

- CDC has worked with federal partners to support the safe return of Americans overseas who have been affected by COVID-19.
- CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for cruise ship travel, recommending all people defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide.
    - On March 13, 2020, the Cruise Lines International Association voluntarily suspended cruise travel out of U.S. ports.
    - On April 9, 2020, CDC extended a No Sail order until further notice.
    - Cruise ships have ended their passenger voyages. The last ship to arrive at a U.S. port docked April 20, 2020.
    - CDC is helping cruise lines repatriate large numbers of crew members from those vessels to their home countries.

Spreading the word

CDC has published a variety of communications resources that state and local governments and community organizations can use to support their own response to the pandemic. They include:

- **Video messages** from CDC scientists and others, including Academy Award Recipient Wes Studi (*The Last of the Mohicans, Avatar*).
- Audio **public service announcements** (PSAs) that can air on radio stations or in airports.
- A collection of more than 3 dozen **flyers and posters** developed to support COVID-19 recommendations, which can be downloaded for free and printed on a standard office or commercial printers.
- A **social media toolkit** of graphics and suggested messages to help communities spread their messages about COVID-19. All content on this page is in the public domain and free for anyone to use.

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