

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

CDC in Action: Preparing Communities for Potential Spread of COVID-19

CDC is aggressively responding to the global outbreak of COVID-19 and preparing for the potential of community spread in the United States.

[Learn more about CDC's Response to COVID-19](#)

Preparing first responders, healthcare providers, and health systems

- Establishing **visibility across healthcare systems** to understand healthcare use, particularly surges in demand for medical care and associated resources.
- Conducting **extensive outreach to clinical and hospital professional organizations** to ensure health system **preparedness**.
- Producing more than **23 guidance documents** on infection control, hospital preparedness assessments, personal protective equipment (PPE) supply planning, and clinical evaluation and management (as of February 22, 2020).
 - Working closely with healthcare facilities and providers to **reinforce infection control principles** that recognize PPE is one component of a larger set of practices that help to limit the spread of disease.
 - **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.
- Leveraging existing **telehealth tools** to direct people to the right level of healthcare for their medical needs.
- **Working with supply chain partners** to understand supply usage, what products are available, and when more aggressive measures may need to be taken to ensure that healthcare workers at highest risk have access to PPE.
- **Sharing information with stakeholders** to help them recognize when to shift the strategies they are using.



Reinforcing state, territorial, and local public health readiness

- **Assessing state and local readiness** to implement community mitigation measures like home containment, including housing and transportation needs.

- Coordinating with states to **identify and mitigate gaps in readiness** that will help reduce the spread of disease in the community while protecting workers, infrastructure, and institutions.
- Linking public health agencies and healthcare systems to **identify and mitigate stressors to the health system**.
- **Tracking stockpiles of PPE** across jurisdictions.
- Working with state and local public health to **use existing [Public Health Emergency Preparedness \(PHEP\) funding](#)** to support COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.
- Leveraging funding mechanisms to help states **accelerate preparedness activities**.
- Providing **technical assistance and guidance** to states to improve their ability to respond to the outbreak.

Supporting communities, businesses, and schools

- [Creating business guidance](#) to help the public and private sectors ensure they are able to operate with adaptations like telework and flexible sick leave policies, as well as how to respond if an employee gets sick.
- **Developing guidance for childcare programs, K-12 schools, and colleges/universities** to help them plan and prepare for COVID-19 and respond if there is a local outbreak in their community.
- Providing **planning guides for COVID-19** that households, community- and faith-based organizations, event planners of mass gatherings, and public health communicators can use.
- Educating communities about **nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs)** that help slow the spread of illness, like COVID-19.

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Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)