



Indiana State Department of Health

Indiana Health Alert Network Notification – March 12, 2020

Updated Information on the COVID-19 Response

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has identified 12 positive cases of COVID-19 in the state since Friday, March 6.

ISDH is working closely with local and federal officials to ensure infection control protocols are in place to reduce further transmission of COVID-19. All cases remain in isolation, and close contacts are being interviewed and instructed on how to home quarantine and when to seek medical care. There is a dashboard now on the ISDH website showing the number of positive cases. The dashboard is updated daily with information through 11:59 p.m. the previous day.

Also on March 6, Gov. Holcomb declared a public health emergency calling on state agencies to continue their diligence and cooperation in responding to COVID-19 and ensuring that Indiana can seek funding to control and stop the spread of novel coronavirus.

There is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The CDC recommends taking the same preventive steps that help stop the spread of any respiratory infection, including influenza, which continues to circulate widely in Indiana. This includes washing hands often with soap and water, staying home when you are sick and covering a cough or sneeze.

ISDH is limiting testing to hospitalized patients with severe respiratory symptoms without another source and to those at most risk, including nursing home patients, jail and prison inmates, and healthcare providers with symptoms and no known source of exposure. This is an evolving situation and guidelines will likely change.

To facilitate timely testing for our most at-risk populations and to have the ability to direct and support our providers, ISDH is recommending the *attached* [algorithm](#) for testing. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 is now occurring at private laboratories, so please remember that all cases of novel diseases are reportable to ISDH. Please let ISDH or your local health department know if you receive a positive test result by entering the case into NBS. Please also let the patient know the result of the test.

With increased spread in the community it becomes not necessary to test every patient with known close contact with a known positive. The recommendation is that these patients [self-quarantine at home](#) or if hospitalized then patients should be presumed to have COVID-19 and proper precautions should be taken.