



West Virginia State Medical Association

Talking Points
COVID

March 23, 2020 @ 6 p.m.

For more information contact:

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Emergency officials continue to coordinate efforts to address the spread of COVID-19, the Coronavirus.

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department has a Coronavirus hotline. Call 304-348-1088 with questions. It is staffed 24 hours a day.

Testing is still of paramount importance in Charleston and Kanawha County. Commercial testing is becoming available throughout the county. KCHD has a nurse available to perform testing until 8 p.m. at the KCHD headquarters at 108 Lee Street in Charleston. In Kanawha County, four individuals have tested positive. It is significant that one of the individuals testing positive had not traveled out of state.

To be tested, an individual must have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit; coughing, shortness of breath or have exposure to someone who has tested positive.

Testing is available at Charleston Area Medical Center and Thomas Health and some other health care providers. Results commonly take from 24 hours to several days. Those being tested for COVID-19 should first be tested for influenza and other respiratory diseases. Those with no symptoms should not be tested.

KCHD is advising those who have traveled to self-quarantine for 14 days and consult their health care providers if they become symptomatic and comply with executive orders to stay in their residences and avoid crowds of more than 10 people.

Officials are in daily contact with nursing homes, hospitals and personal care homes to monitor their need for supplies. There is currently a shortage of some cleaning supplies, personal protection equipment and hand sanitizers.

Health care facilities are limiting the number of individuals who can visit a patient and may check your temperature before you are admitted. (Visitors may not be permitted in some facilities.)

Public facilities like restaurants and bars are closed for dining. Have food delivered. Order take out. Gyms and recreational facilities are closed.

Practice social distancing. Work from home. Visit pharmacies or grocery stores when they are not crowded. Practice good hygiene. Cover coughs. WASH YOUR HANDS. Not doing so may be fatal to you or someone you love.