



West Virginia State Medical Association

Talking Points
COVID

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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. The hotline is averaging about 80 calls each day.

Testing is still an issue in Charleston and Kanawha County, as it is throughout the nation. Commercial testing is becoming available at health care facilities 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, 15 individuals have tested positive.

Testing is available at many health facilities throughout the city and county. 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 exposure to COVID and with no symptoms should not be tested.

KCHD is instructing those who have traveled to isolate 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. Those who visit establishments that remain open because of Gov. Jim Justice's "stay at home" executive order must maintain distancing.

The general definition of isolation is that an individual should stay in and around his or her home. It is not advisable to venture out for groceries or prescriptions. Confine yourself to your home or yard and avoid contact with other individuals.

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 are not 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.