



West Virginia State Medical Association

Talking Points
COVID
March 19, 2020 @ 6 p.m.

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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 hotline. Call 304-348-1088 with questions. It is staffed 24 hours a day. Approximately 250 calls have been received since the hotline's Feb. 27 inception.

Testing is still of paramount importance in Charleston and Kanawha County. Commercial testing is becoming available throughout the county. KCHD has performed nine tests.

To be tested through the Office of Laboratory Services, an individual must have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit; coughing, shortness of breath and have traveled to an identified area of outbreak. Commercial testing requirements are not as rigorous.

Testing is now 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. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced travel guidelines. KCHD encourages residents to practice social distancing and travel only when absolutely necessary.

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. National reports indicate supplies are forthcoming. These facilities have implemented the emergency plans they are required to have in place.

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.

KCHD is in discussions with West Virginia University School of Medicine to have medical students provide epidemiological surveillance when positive tests are reported in Kanawha County.