



Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center

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Friday, March 6, 2020

Weekly Provider Update--- COVID-19

This summary is to inform you of important changes to current recommendations or alert you to situations that require your awareness. It is not meant to replace the guidance documents that are being shared. Items below are simply an overview of pertinent information for the week.

- **Community spread:**

- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated, though still relatively low risk of exposure. Since we have community spread in the U.S please increase your level of suspicion for COVID-19 in any patient that has travel history, either internationally or domestically to affected areas with severe respiratory disease, severe enough that requires hospitalization without known cause.
- Areas with sustained (ongoing) transmission:
 - China (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
 - Iran (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
 - Italy (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
 - Japan (Level 2 Travel Health Notice)
 - South Korea (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)

- **Increased testing capacity:**

- Both LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics have announced their plans for starting to test for COVID-19. LabCorp officially began testing yesterday at 5:00 p.m. and Quest Diagnostics will begin testing on Monday, March 9, 2020. Additionally, the state public health lab (SPHL) has the ability to test patients as well. ***NOTE: All specimens going to the SPHL will still need to be approved prior to submission. Testing kits are available at the health department.***

*LabCorp Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAA) test:

<https://www.labcorp.com/tests/139900/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-naa>

*Quest Diagnostics press release: <https://newsroom.questdiagnostics.com/2020-03-05-Quest-Diagnostics-to-Launch-Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19-Test>

- **Monitoring of travelers:**

- The state of Missouri was notified on a call with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that instead of updating the monitoring guidance, CDC has opted to share isolation recommendations for travelers returning from several countries on their Travel Health Notices website (see above). At this time, we will only be receiving notifications for travelers from CDC for those individuals returning from **China** and **Iran**.

****IF YOU TEST PATIENTS THROUGH ONE OF THE COMMERCIAL LABS AND GET ANY POSITIVE RESULTS PLEASE REPORT THE CASE THROUGH YOUR USUAL PROCESS TO CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH IMMEDIATELY. COVID-19 IS A REPORTABLE CONDITION IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI.**