

COVID-19 Preparedness And Response Activities In Missouri

Talking Points

Background

The Missouri Hospital Association has been working hand-in-hand with Missouri public health leaders and regional coalitions to maintain situational awareness of the emerging coronavirus (COVID-19) threat in the state. Regular calls and guidance updates have occurred with leaders in emergency preparedness, infection control and other disciplines related to managing care and resources. The following talking points reflect the current status of hospitals' activities and are designed to generally improve public awareness.

- Hospitals and health care stakeholders, including state and local public health authorities and first responders, are actively preparing for coronavirus response in Missouri. Although no cases of the virus have been confirmed in the state, active surveillance is occurring.
- We understand the public's concern. Presently, the most beneficial activity members of the public can engage in is increased attention to hygiene, including hand washing.
- Since January, statewide and regional response coalitions have activated their incident command systems to prepare for coronavirus in Missouri. In addition, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has issued an emergency rule for expedited testing of suspected cases of coronavirus and has received testing supplies and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Hospitals' emergency response plans include systems to respond to infectious disease. These systems are being exercised at hospitals. Our understanding of the actions needed to address a coronavirus outbreak are informed by earlier activities surrounding the swine flu, Ebola and Zika response activities.
- Statewide, disease response partners are sharing regular updates about the status of their supplies and resources.
- Missouri public health leaders are working with federal partners at the Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC to share the most up-to-date guidance with the frontlines of health care. These resources are being delivered to hospitals and other providers at the frontline of care prepare for and mitigate the spread of coronavirus. Congress and the administration are working on additional funding to increase the resources available.