The New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce was established in 2006. The NORBCC has a very diverse membership base of 600+ and we are steadily increasing in membership and presence in the 10-parish region that we serve: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington.

HELPFUL INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19

Please click the link below to gain access to different links for government assistance due to COVID-19

https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/resources/
Please click the link to be directed to the unemployment guidelines for Louisiana. It is clear that all employees impacted by the decline in business qualifies for unemployment based on the rules.

https://eligibility.com/unemployment/louisiana-la-unemployment-benefits

Please share this with your employees and partners and encourage as a means to bridge the gap for reduced hours or illnesses.

SBA to Provide Disaster Assistance Loans for Small Businesses Impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Release Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020
Contact: Jennifer.Kelly@sba.gov (202)205-7036

WASHINGTON – SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza issued the following statement today in response to the President’s address to the nation:

“The President took bold, decisive action to make our 30 million small businesses more resilient to Coronavirus-related economic disruptions. Small businesses are vital economic engines in every community and state, and they have helped make our economy the strongest in the world. Our Agency will work directly with state Governors to provide targeted, low-interest disaster recovery loans to small businesses that have been severely impacted by the situation. Additionally, the SBA continues to assist small businesses with counseling and navigating their own preparedness plans through our network of 68 District Offices and numerous Resource Partners located around the country. The SBA will continue to provide every small business with the most effective and customer-focused response possible during these times of uncertainty.”

SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to $2 million in assistance for a small business. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

Process for Accessing SBA’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Lending

- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state’s or territory’s Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
SBA’s Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state’s or territory’s Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities.

These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower’s ability to repay.

SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government’s coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.

For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Check on Declaration status:
Check our website: https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Declarations/Index

1. When there isn’t a declaration yet:
   Step 1: If a business contacts your office, have them contact their local Emergency Management office (EM). As you might know, there isn’t a declaration for Louisiana yet.
   Step 2: Have them share their economic injury with the EM. For example in Webster Parish, a business owner would call EM Brian Williams.

2. When there is a declaration announced it will be listed on the website. : https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Declarations/Index

The business can then apply.
To apply:

v. https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance

v. Call Toll Free 1-800-659-2955

v. TTY: 1-800-877-8339

v. e-mail: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov
SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus

- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- SBA’s Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state’s or territory’s Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

- Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities as well as updated on our website: SBA.gov/disaster.

- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to $2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower’s ability to repay.

- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government’s coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.

- For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

- Visit SBA.gov/disaster for more information.
In effort to obtain a disaster declaration from the Small Business Administration that will then provide access to SBA loan resources, we are in need of your assistance to complete the attached Economic Injury Worksheets (link below) demonstrating evidence of financial loss to your business.

Please return to Kelisha Garrett (kelisha.garrett@norbchamber.org), Jeff Schwartz (Jeschwartz@nola.gov) and Courtney Stuckwisch Wong (castuckwisch@nola.gov).

The sooner we can provide your worksheets to the Governor's Office, the sooner they will send them to the SBA for consideration.

Thank you in advance to your assistance with this request.

Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands!

When?
- After using the bathroom
- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

How?
- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.

www.cdc.gov/handwashing

This material was developed by CDC. The Life is Better with Clean Hands Campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation, GOJO, and Staples. HH/HDO does not endorse commercial products, services, or companies.
The Louisiana Department of Education has published a parish-by-parish list of schools that will be serving free meals to all children age 18 and under. These meals are being made available to all children regardless of location or income.

You can access the list of the school sites offering meals here.

The Department of Education has also created a dedicated website for COVID-19 related information.
AT&T Offers Added Relief for Customers

AT&T is planning on being here to help you stay connected throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize that staying in touch with your family, friends, school and work has never been more important.

Below are a few ways we’re helping consumers, small businesses, and enterprises across the country.

Consistent with FCC Chairman Pai’s “Keep Americans Connected Pledge” announced today and concerns raised by members of Congress, which we share, AT&T is proud to support our customers by pledging that, for the next 60 days, we will:

1. Not terminate the service of any wireless, home phone or broadband residential or small business customer because of their inability to pay their bill due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
2. Waive any late payment fees that any wireless, home phone or broadband residential or small business customer may incur because of economic hardship related to the coronavirus pandemic.
3. Keep our public Wi-Fi hotspots open for any American who needs them.

To provide further relief and support, AT&T announced:

**Unlimited AT&T Home Internet** – All AT&T consumer home internet wireline customers, as well as Fixed Wireless internet, can use unlimited internet data. Additionally, we’ll continue to offer internet access for qualifying limited income households at $10 a month through our Access from AT&T program.

**Helping You Work and Learn Remotely** – Businesses, universities and schools can keep their teams and classrooms connected through conference calls and video conferencing with Cisco Webex Meetings with AT&T for 90-days, and seamlessly forward calls to both mobile and landline phones with AT&T IP Flexible Reach.

**Distance Learning** – AT&T is underwriting expenses for a “one-stop” resource center to support eLearning Days from the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), available to all educators in schools to help them handle school closures and the increase in virtual learning due to COVID-19.

AT&T has a website dedicated to COVID-19. Additional details about these commitments will be available soon.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

*REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DATES WILL BE LISTED BELOW PLEASE TRY TO RESPOND BY COB.
CLICK ON THE RFP FOR MORE INFORMATION!

The MCCNO is seeking a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for Internet Services. All services shall be provided on an as-needed basis. Response to this RFP does not guarantee a contract. The response shall be organized in accordance with the RFP documents. Response shall be succinct as possible while completely providing all requested information. Responses will become part of the contract.

All responses are due by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020

C-1644 RFP Documents

COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS
As a result of the current and anticipated local economic impact of COVID-19, the New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA) has set up a dedicated relief fund to meet the needs of gig economy workers who have been directly affected by loss of income. NOLABA has committed $100,000 to initiate the fund, with the goal of increasing its assets to a minimum of $500,000. With the full support of Mayor LaToya Cantrell and City Council, we’re charging the entire community to participate, encouraging business leaders, philanthropy, and concerned residents to contribute to this critical relief effort.

Please join us in supporting our fellow New Orleanians.
DONATE NOW

Gig economy workers represent more than 8% of the workforce in Orleans Parish, including rideshare drivers, musicians, arena workers, and festival production staff. As contract employees, gig economy workers tend to lack access to minimum wage, paid sick leave, overtime pay, and standard employee benefits, making them particularly susceptible to changes within the economy.

With the cancellations and postponements of many large local events on the horizon, this community stands to lose out on millions of dollars of potential income, directly impacting their livelihoods and well-being. The establishment of this relief fund will help ensure that these critical members of the community may continue to be active participants in the New Orleans economy, and rest assured that their families will be taken care of during this uncertain time.

Thanks in advance for your contribution.

We will get through this together,
Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
President and CEO
New Orleans Business Alliance

Apply for Grant Support

Musicians, rideshare drivers, festival production staff, artists, this is for you. We recognize your contributions to our community and we’re ready to support you throughout this crisis. Apply for grant support now.

Contribute to the Fund

With cancellations and postponements of many large local events on the horizon, our gig economy stands to lose out on millions of dollars of potential income, directly impacting livelihoods and well-being. We’ve established a relief fund to benefit these members of our community. Join us now.

#DeliberateSpending365
Deliberate Spending

Healthcare & Supplies
AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
Keelea R. LeJeune
klejeune@amerihealthcaritasla.com

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
Rod Teamer
rod.teamer@bcbsla.com

LCMC Health
Ayame Dinkler
ayame.dinkler@lcmehealth.org

Ochsner Hospital
Emily Arara
emily.arara@ochsner.org

WD Lewis Inc.
Will Lewis
wdlewis@yahoo.com

Cleaning/Janitorial
Bar B Clean
Roderick Franklin
rbf183@att.net

First Klass Enterprise, LLC
Terry Gaddis
FKE@FKenterprise.com

Grit Out Cleaning Co
Ed Tauriac
etauriac@gritoutcleaning.com

Premiere Building Maintenance Corporation
Kayla Mitchell
kmitchell@premierebuilding.com

Carpet Masters LLC
George Baggett
carpetmasters@bellsouth.net
Deliberate Spending

Transportation
360 Trucking Non Emergency Medical
Transportation DBA 360 Trucking LLC
Demetris Robinson
360bizz@gmail.com

Burton Transit
Nelson Burton Jr.
nelson@burtontransit.com

VonDerrick’s Transportation
Yvonne Cooper
yvonne.lheyward@gmail.com

RTA
Keziah Lee
klee@rtaforward.org

Legal Services
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Geri Broussard
GBroussard@bbbf.com

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Deliberate Spending

Financial Services

3rd Millennium Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.
Loretta Jonson
info@3rdmillenium-ins.com

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc
Belinda Lewis Batiste
belinda.l.batiste@ampf.com

Franklin Financial Services LLC
Javon Franklin
franklinfinancialservicesllc@gmail.com

TruFund Financial Services
Myla R. Poree
mreese@trufund.org

Edward Jones Investments
Christina Wilson
christina.wilson@edwardjones.com
Preparedness (OPH BCP) is partnering with Louisiana 211 and the Louisiana Association of United Ways to ensure citizens can access to the most current information available for COVID-19. As members of the Governor’s COVI-19 Taskforce, LDH, OPH BCP and Louisiana 211 work in coordination with all state efforts for COVID-19.

Louisiana citizens can dial 211, 24/7 to reach a live 211 specialist to discuss available help and information for COVID-19. Citizens can also text the keyword “LACOVID” to 898-211 to have instant access to the most current information available in our state.

COVID-19 FAQs for Louisiana
As of Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 12:41pm

ABOUT COVID-19

Q: What is coronavirus or COVID-19?
Coronavirus or COVID-19 is a contagious virus that makes people sick. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people.

Q: How does COVID-19 spread?
Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- Respiratory droplets produced when coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes

People can also become infected if they breathe in the droplets from the person who has COVID-19. This is why it’s important to stay at least 6 feet away from an infected person

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?
For confirmed coronavirus infections, reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms (similar to the common cold) to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

Q: What is the incubation period for COVID-19?
The incubation period for COVID-19 is about 5 days. The range is between 4 and 7 days, although it is sometimes quicker and it sometimes may take up to 14 days.

Q: Is COVID-19 fatal?
While people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. and abroad, the majority of people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 do recover.

The virus appears to only be severe if it reaches the lungs and remains untreated. Most otherwise healthy people can recover from COVID-19 at home.

**Q: What steps should I take to protect myself and my family?**
We all have a role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. The single most important thing we can all do is stay home when we are sick. Social distancing, washing hands vigorously and often, coughing into elbow.

**TREATMENT**

**Q: Is there a vaccine or medicine to treat COVID-19?**
No. There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for this infection. People infected with COVID-19 receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

**Feeling sick? TESTING for COVID-19**

**Q: How do I get tested?**
The Louisiana Department of Health recommends to healthcare providers for COVID-19 testing for any patient with fever, respiratory symptoms, and a negative influenza test.

If you believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should contact your primary care physician for guidance. Your primary care physician can do testing on you, and order a test from LabCorp. Quest labs will begin offering testing later in the week or early next week. Your doctor might also request testing from the State Lab.

**Q: How do I know to get tested or test family members?**
If you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should contact your primary care physician for guidance. Your primary care physician can order tests from commercial labs or the State Lab.

The Department of Health recommends COVID-19 testing for any patient with fever, respiratory symptoms and a negative influenza test.

**Q: What if I don't have a doctor or have insurance?**
If you do not have a doctor or if you do not have insurance, contact your nearest community health clinic. This website lists all of these clinics: [www.lpca.net/main/for-patients/find-a-health-center](http://www.lpca.net/main/for-patients/find-a-health-center).

**Q: Who can be tested for COVID-19?**
The Louisiana Department of Health recommends COVID-19 testing for any patient with fever, respiratory symptoms and a negative influenza test

Healthcare providers have been advised that testing is recommended for any patient with fever, respiratory symptoms and a negative influenza test.

**Q: What do I do if I don't have an established doctor or can't get an appointment?**
If you do not have a doctor or if you do not have insurance, contact your nearest community clinic. This website lists all of these clinics/health centers: [www.lpca.net/main/for-patients/find-a-health-center](http://www.lpca.net/main/for-patients/find-a-health-center).
Q: Should I go to the ER? Or, when should I go to the ER?
You should go to the ER if you are seriously ill (difficulty breathing, confusion, dehydrated). If you are sick with typical cold or flu symptoms, call your primary care doctor.

Q: When you hear “presumptive positive,” what does presumptive mean?
“Presumptive positive” means that a test conducted by the State Lab has come back positive. The “presumptive” becomes “confirmed” only after the State’s test is confirmed by the CDC.

Q: If I need to get tested for COVID-19, how much will it cost?
The federal government has announced that all testing is free, including for the uninsured.

Q: What should I do if I have come in contact with someone who has tested positive?
You should self-isolate and limit your contact with other people. And, you should contact your primary care physician for guidance. If you develop a fever and a cough, you should contact your doctor.

Q: What should I do if I am sick?
Call your doctor immediately if the following:

- Think you have been exposed to COVID-19
- Are over the age of 60 with symptoms
- Have an underlying medical condition like heart, lung, or kidney disease
- Develop a fever
- Develop symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing

Q. OPH recommends that you stay home and treat your symptoms as you would with the common cold if the following:

- If you are under 60 and other otherwise healthy
- Have not been in contact with someone who has COVID-19
- Have not recently traveled to a country with a high rate of COVID-19

Q. What should I do if I am caring for someone who is sick?
If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, are over the age of 60, or have an underlying medical condition like heart, lung, or kidney disease, and develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately.

If you are young, otherwise healthy, and have not been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 or recently traveled to a country with a high rate of COVID-19, stay home and treat your symptoms as you would with a common cold.

Q: What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?
Isolation and quarantine are both public health practices that are being utilized to limit the spread of COVID-19. While they are often used interchangeably, they have very different meanings.

Isolation is a strategy used to separate people who are sick with a contagious illness from those who are healthy. Isolation restricts the movement of people who are ill to help stop the spread of certain diseases. People in isolation may be cared for in their homes, in hospitals, or in designated healthcare facilities.
Quarantine is used to separate and restrict the movement of people who may have been exposed to a contagious illness, but do not have symptoms to see if they become sick. These individuals may or may not be contagious.

Q: How can a healthcare provider get answers to questions about laboratory testing?
Healthcare providers can call the Lab Provider Help phone line, 225-219-5265 (answered M-F, 8am-4:30mp) They can also send an email to COVIDLAB@la.gov Provider emails will be answered 7am-midnight daily, including the weekend.

Q. Does pre-existing respiratory illness qualify you for asymptomatic testing?
No. Currently, there is no testing for people not experiencing symptoms.

COVID-19 testing is based on recent travel to affected areas with combined respiratory illness symptoms, or exposure to a known case of COVID-19. Currently, there is no testing for asymptomatic people.

**SYMPTOMS**

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?
For confirmed coronavirus infections, reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms (similar to the common cold) to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

Q: How does COVID-19 compare to influenza in terms of symptoms, mortality rate, number of cases, etc.?
Based on what is known, COVID-19 is at least as severe, if not more serious than flu. Much is unknown about COVID-19 about how easily it spreads, who most is at risk.

From preliminary studies, people who are most at-risk for a serious illness from COVID-19 are:
People over age 60 who also have underlying medical conditions.

**PREVENTION**

Q. Is there a vaccine for COVID-19?
No. There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for this infection. People infected with COVID-19 receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

Q. How can I help protect myself and/or my family?
The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. There are simple everyday precautions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

Actions to help protect you and your family include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
• Stay home when you are sick.
• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw tissue in the trash.
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The best preparation families can do is practice good seasonal flu/cold hygiene: cover your cough, wash your hands (especially after being in public spaces, shaking hands), stay home if you are sick, and get your flu shot!

Q. Should I keep my children home from school or avoid going to work?
You should follow guidance from your employer about closures.

On March 13, Gov. Edwards ordered the closure of all K-12 public schools statewide. This is effective Monday, March 16, through April 13.

For the most up-to-date information about schools and education-specific questions, the Department of Education has established a special email address: LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov

Q. Is there special guidance for people who are deaf or blind?

• If you are not feeling well, stay home. Do not put yourself or support service provider at risk.
• Touch support service provider only on shoulder or elbow for guiding techniques. Avoid touching support service provider hands or face aside from communicating.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Wash hands immediately after communication interaction.
• Let your support service provider know if you need to sneeze/cough so they can put distance between you.
• Carry and use hand sanitizer in between as needed.
• Allow your support service provider to sit/stand on side of you as much as is comfortable instead of face to face to limit contact of skin and/or bodily fluids.
• Attempt to stand as far apart from your support service provider as is comfortable
• Important: Patients who have severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, should seek emergency care immediately. Use Video Relay Services, or ask family/friend to contact them for you. If necessary, contact Interpreting/SSP office for assistance.

Q. Should I cancel my travel plans?
If you have a trip planned, check the CDC’s site for a risk assessment of your destination. CDC is not recommending that travelers cancel all plans except to specific locations where the threat of COVID-19 spread is significantly higher.
If you travel, take the same precautions you would while home to avoid getting sick or spreading germs including washing your hands thoroughly and often and avoiding contact with sick people.

Q: Should I or my family wear a protective mask?
It is not recommended that most people wear protective masks. This is because most people fiddle with and touch their masks, limiting any protective benefit. Masks are recommended for healthcare providers.

If someone is sick, a mask will limit the spread of the virus by the sick individual. Therefore, the general public is not recommended to use masks at this point, given they don’t work well, and they need to be used by healthcare personnel treating those with COVID-19.

Q: Coronavirus is noted on Lysol bottles. Why is COVID-19 categorized as new if listed on old Lysol bottles? Should the public expect any new commercially available disinfectant
products to address COVID-19?
Coronaviruses are a family of viruses, and they are not new. There were six existing strains of coronavirus before 2019, some of which cause the common cold. The latest strain, however, is nCoV-2019 (COVID-19) which originated in 2019. Lysol bottles are not referencing the latest COVID-19, but instead the coronaviruses that cause the common cold. There is no reason to believe, though, that Lysol is not effective for COVID-19, so please use it!

TRANSMISSION

Q. How does COVID-19 spread?
Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads.

Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- Respiratory droplets produced when coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes

Q: If a person tested positive for COVID-19 can they be re-infected?
There is evidence to suggest that some people have contracted the virus a second time. This means that all people – even those who have already had the illness – should remain vigilant and take the necessary precautions.

Q: Can pets get COVID-19?
Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. It is rare for an animal to infect people and then spread between people such as with recent outbreaks of MERS and SARS. Nevertheless, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is not considered a threat to dogs and cats, and pets do not play a role in transmission of the virus to people.

Q: Is it safe to receive a package from an area where COVID-19 has been reported?
Yes. The likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, traveled, and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low.

HEALTH EFFECTS / COMPLICATIONS

Q. What are severe complications from this virus?
Severe complications include pneumonia in both lungs.

Q. Who is at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19?
Those who are most at risk are people over age 60 AND who have severe chronic medical conditions such as heart, lung, kidney disease or diabetes.

Other people who are not age 60, but who have these same medical conditions also face a higher risk than the general population.

Q. What about women who are pregnant?
There is not currently information from published scientific reports about susceptibility of pregnant
women to COVID-19. Pregnant women experience immunologic and physiologic changes which might make them more susceptible to viral respiratory infections, including COVID-19.

Q. What is the risk to children?
Although infections in children have been reported, there is no evidence that children are more susceptible to COVID-19 or at greater risk of a serious illness. More information is being gathered to determine more about this outbreak.

Q. What precautions are nursing homes and assisted living facilities taking?
Nursing homes, assisted living centers and other similar healthcare facilities have the authority to restrict entry to people, including family members and friends of residents, during this health crisis.

People are advised to contact individual facilities for restrictions and recommendations that have been put in place at that location.

Q: Does the state’s restricted visitors policy mean no visitors can enter a health care facility?

No. Health care facilities can allow visitors at their discretion, in consultation with families and responsible parties. This order also doesn’t apply to situations involving end-of-life care. However, no one who meets the definition of a "restricted person" can be allowed in a healthcare facility.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Q: What should I do if I have recently traveled?
If you were recently in a country with a COVID-19 outbreak, you should self-isolate for 14 days after your return. If you do not experience any sickness (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) after 14 days, you may resume your regular activities and use the same usual precautions to prevent spread of viruses like the flu (wash hands frequently, cough /sneeze into your elbow, disinfect surfaces).

Q. What if I feel sick within 14 days after returning to the U.S.?

- Seek medical advice – Call ahead before you go to a doctor’s office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Not travel on public transportation while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus to others.
- Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

Q: I am a recent traveler from Italy. Can I request a COVID-19 test from my provider for peace of mind? I am willing to pay any applicable cost.
COVID-19 testing is only currently available to sick people due to a limited number of tests available. You should monitor your health for 14-days following your return from travel. If you do become ill in the 14-days (especially with fever and cough), stay home and call your doctor. Your doctor can assist with the necessary steps to determine if testing would be appropriate for you. At this time, there is no test for well people who just want to know if they have been exposed.

Q: I am a recent traveler from Italy and experiencing flu like symptoms. I reported this to my healthcare provider at a recent visit and no testing was offered. What should I do next?
Healthcare providers work with the Office of Public Health to determine if a patient should be tested for COVID-19. It is possible that a flu test was done (and was positive), which would be responsible for the symptoms (and be the reason for no COVID-19 testing). If you continue to have concerns or if your symptoms worsen, please contact your healthcare provider.

RESOURCES

Q: Where can I get the most up-to-date information?
Go to the Department of Health’s website: www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus

For information about schools, contact the Department of Education at this email address: LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov

COVID-19 in Louisiana

Q: Are there any confirmed cases in Louisiana?
Check the Louisiana Department of Health’s website for the most up-to-date information: www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus. The website is updated twice daily, at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. To date, most cases have been clustered in the New Orleans area.

Q: Have public schools been closed?
Yes, on March 13, Gov. Edwards ordered the closure of all K-12 public schools statewide. This is effective Monday, March 16, through April 13. For the most up-to-date information about schools and education-specific questions, the Department of Education has established this email address: LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov.

The Governor also ordered the halt of any gathering of more than 250 people for this same time period.

Q: What about childcare centers and preschools?
Daycares and early learning centers run by private entities can remain open unless otherwise informed as the situation progresses. However, daycare programs should encourage children who
can stay home to do so, children and staff should wash their hands frequently and they should limit child grouping.

**Q: Can children still get school meals?**
Yes, according to the Governor’s order. It requires schools to use appropriate social distancing measures, and continue to provide meals or other essential services with applicable staff. You should contact your child’s school for specific instructions.

**Q: Will Louisiana Health Department's expand testing?**
LDH is preparing to test more broadly as the federal government expands its testing guidelines. The Department is in constant communication with the CDC and will test more patients as needed. In addition, the Department expects more tests to take place as commercial labs receive referrals from health care providers.

**Q: What is the current COVID-19 situation in Louisiana?**
While the CDC now expects community spread in some parts of the United States, the immediate threat to the U.S. remains low. That said, it is important to be prepared.

The Louisiana Department of Health has been preparing for COVID-19 since the outbreak in mainland China. The Office of Public Health has developed guidance for doctors for testing and treatment of COVID-19, as well as developed guidance for home care of patients with coronavirus. This guidance is given to all health care providers via our Health Alert Network.

Additionally, the Louisiana Office of Public Health has activated its Emergency Operations Center and launched public health measures to respond. This is the same strategy being done at the national level under the guidance of the CDC, and in all other states and the District of Columbia.

**Q: What is Louisiana’s testing capability?**
Louisiana has a testing capability of several hundred patients. This number changes constantly as test kits are used up and more arrive. The Office of Public Health has ordered additional testing kits from the CDC and has been pleased that they arrived in a timely fashion.

Commercial testing is now also available, and any positive private lab tests that come back positive will be verified at the OPH lab in Baton Rouge and confirmed by the CDC lab in Atlanta.

**Q: What is the number of tests being given by healthcare providers for COVID-19 around the state of Louisiana? What percentage have been positive?**
For the most up-to-date information about cases in Louisiana, please go to the COVID-19 website: [www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus)

**Q. What are the appropriate swab kits to use for COVID19 testing?**
Medical providers can use any available Viral Transport Media (VTM) or Universal Transport Media (UTM) available to them, making sure to follow instructions on the testing materials and ensuring the vial is completely closed and sealed.

**Q: How does the process for testing in Louisiana for COVID-19 work?**
The Office of Public Health operates a laboratory in Baton Rouge that performs many types of tests for infectious diseases, such as for tuberculosis and measles. State lab workers are a team of highly trained professionals who are experienced at testing for many kinds of infectious diseases using a variety of different tests.

**Q: Is the Louisiana Department of Health concerned about shipping channels such as the Port of New Orleans being affected by COVID-19?**
Department officials met with the Coast Guard to discuss potential issues with the COVID-19 virus once it became clearer that the virus was spreading globally. We don’t think there will be potential for spreading the virus through shipping channels.

**Q: What are Louisiana Health Department leaders doing to monitor people who may have been exposed?**

LDH’s first priority was to monitor any travelers who returned to Louisiana from visiting China’s areas that had the most community spread. As other countries experienced community spread, Louisiana epidemiologists have been in contact with travelers who returned from traveling abroad to high-exposure countries to ask whether they were experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

LDH workers touch base with those travelers each day and ask about their symptoms during a 14-day period of observation. LDH is also ensuring that travelers know the destinations where non-essential travel should be avoided. The countries under a Level 3 Travel Notice are China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea.

**Q: Will the State identify COVID-19 patients?**

No. Because of patient privacy laws, the Louisiana Department of Health cannot provide any information that might identify patients. This includes name, residence of patient or any other potentially identifying patient information.

**Q: What precautions is the State taking to protect our students and school system staff and parent volunteers from possible exposure to the COVID-19?**

The Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) has been in contact with the Louisiana Department of Education (DOE) in regard to disease control and prevention of COVID-19. For the most up-to-date information about schools and education-specific questions, the Department of Education has established this email address: LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov

OPH has provided guidance from the CDC on infection control best practices such as handwashing, covering of coughs, disinfection of environmental surfaces, and encouraging students and staff to stay home when they are ill. Further guidance has been shared on social distancing, cancellation of classes and school events, as well as discouraging social gatherings among students in the event that there is community (person-to-person) transmission of the disease.

**Q: Are hospitals prepared?**

LDH has been working with the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) and the ESF8 Network to prepare hospitals for an outbreak and ensure they have the proper supplies needed as well as protocols in place for anyone treated who tests positive. There is no indication that hospitals don’t have what they need on the supply side.

**Q: What precautions are nursing homes and assisted living facilities taking?**

On March 12, the Louisiana Department of Health started requiring all licensed healthcare facilities in the state to restrict visitors to those deemed essential, vital or necessary to the care and well-being of patients, clients and residents. This prohibition will last for the next 30 days, ending on April 10, 2020 unless otherwise extended by the Department.

Nursing homes, assisted living centers and other similar healthcare facilities have the authority to restrict entry to people, including family members and friends of residents, during this health crisis.

**Q: What’s the next major step in the Department’s plan for responding to an outbreak?**

Mirroring the federal government’s response, LDH is moving from a ‘containment’ approach focusing
on travelers to a ‘mitigation’ approach anticipating and planning for person-to-person transmission in the community somewhere in the United States. We are focused on state and local government preparedness and are providing support to health care providers, schools, businesses and community members to ensure they are adequately prepared to take action to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We don’t want people to be alarmed, but we do want them to be prepared. We also want businesses and health care facilities to be prepared to make sure people are safe and protected so we can avoid an unnecessary spread.

**Q: Are quarantines being planned?**
LDH does not expect to use its legal authority to quarantine for this particular infection. LDH has extensive quarantine plans stemming from prior health events such as H1N1 and Ebola.

**Q: Is LDH in regular contact with the federal government?**
Yes. LDH are in constant contact with the US Center for Disease Control and HHS. In addition, LDH standing calls across state health departments and a standing call internally in Louisiana.

**GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS**

**Q: What is the latest on the State of Louisiana’s response to COVID-19?**
On March 13, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a public health emergency in Louisiana. That same day the Governor signed a proclamation that immediately halts any gathering of more than 250 people until Monday, April 13. This limitation includes the closure of all K-12 public schools statewide effective March 16, and it limits church services to gatherings to 250 people or fewer.

Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Health ordered health care facilities in the state, including hospitals and nursing homes, to restrict visitors to those deemed essential, vital or necessary to the care and well-being of patients, clients and residents.

Separately on March 13, the governor postponed the April 4 elections until June and July.

Mirroring the federal government's response, the state has moved from a 'containment' approach which focuses on travelers to a ‘mitigation’ approach -- anticipating and planning for person-to-person transmission in the community. The State is focused on state and local government preparedness and providing support to health care providers, schools, businesses and community members to ensure citizens are adequately prepared to take action to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**Q: What is the protocol in place for responding to a pandemic like Coronavirus/COVID-19?**
COVID-19 behaves in many ways similar to influenza. Because of this, the CDC recommends using the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness plan as our model for the response.

The Louisiana Department of Health has been working on our Pandemic Preparedness Plan for the last 15 years, and we have been preparing for COVID-19 starting in early January 2020.

In early March, the Governor directed the formation of a COVID-19 Task Force with representation from state agencies and federal partners key to preparing for a COVID-19 outbreak. This task force guides updating Louisiana’s pandemic flu/COVID-19 response and ensures a continuity of operations and advises the Unified Command Group.
Q: What factors would trigger a government-mandated closure of schools or businesses, etc.?

The Governor has ordered the halt of any gathering of more than 250 people from March 13, 2020 through April 13, 2020 as well as school closures. The Presidential Primary has also been postponed in the interest of reducing contact of large groups at the beginning of April. For the most up-to-date information about schools and education-specific questions, the Department of Education has established this email address: LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 13, 2020
MEDIA CONTACT:
Mike Steele
mike.steele@la.gov
225-788-0095

State Emergency Operations Center Partially Activated due to Coronavirus Response

BATON ROUGE (March 13, 2020) – The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) announced today that the state emergency operations center (SEOC) has been partially activated as part of the state’s Coronavirus or COVID-19 response efforts. That level of activation involves select state agencies reporting to the EOC and working together as this health emergency continues to impact the state. Those employees will be tasked with evaluating and filling requests for support from our local emergency managers and other state agencies.

“GOHSEP has helped coordinate the information flow with our local, state and federal partners for the past several weeks as the Coronavirus threat has grown,” said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. “We stand ready to support those responding to this threat as we would for any type of disaster. We always encourage the public to review your emergency game plan and check your emergency supplies. Stay informed with information from reliable sources in order to make the best decisions for you, your family and your business.”

Louisiana’s statewide 211 network is now answering calls about COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus. This network is best designed and staffed to handle the large volume of calls from Louisiana residents who are concerned and who have questions about the rapidly-spreading virus. Anyone looking for information about the COVID-19 outbreak can also dial 211 or text the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

March 13, 2020
GOHSEP has activated its public information website at www.emergency.la.gov in order to consolidate news releases and other updates.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP’s Facebook and Twitter accounts. Listen to conversations on all aspects of emergency management by downloading GOHSEP’s The Get A Game Plan Podcast. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. The Get A Game Plan App is another resource available to help you and your family prepare for any type of emergency. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.
/public health emergency - COVID-19

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with public health emergencies, including an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is believed to be caused by the appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the health and lives of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor after consultation with the public health authority determines that a public health emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:766(A) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in many other countries, including in the United States. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19");

WHEREAS, according to the CDC's website, person-to-person spread has been subsequently reported in countries outside China, including in the United States. Some international destinations now have apparent community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19, as do some parts of the United States. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, a World Health Organization statement released March 7, 2020 stated that the global number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has surpassed 100,000;

WHEREAS, as of March 11, 2020, the CDC's website reports that 38 states, including the District of Columbia, have reported cases of COVID-19 to CDC, for a total of 938 confirmed cases, and that states have reported 29 deaths resulting from COVID-19;
WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, a Louisiana resident, pursuant to CDC protocol, was tested for COVID-19, with the test being presumptively positive;

WHEREAS, in the last two days, several more Louisiana residents have tested presumptively positive for COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread amongst the population by various means of exposure, therefore posing a high probability of widespread exposure and a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of Louisiana citizens;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has consulted with the public health authority regarding COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Governor, after such consultation, finds that a threat of a public health emergency is imminent;

WHEREAS, a declaration of public health emergency is necessary to allow state agencies to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality related to public health needs and deploy additional resources to assist local authorities, if necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Health and the State Health Officer have requested that a public health emergency be declared.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the state of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760, et seq., a statewide public health emergency is declared to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat posed to Louisiana citizens by COVID-19, which has created emergency conditions that threaten the lives and health of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Secretary of the Department of Health are hereby expressly empowered to take any and all actions authorized under the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760 et seq. in relation to this public health emergency.

SECTION 3: The Secretary of the Department of Health and/or the State Health Officer are hereby expressly empowered to take any and all actions authorized thereto under Titles 29 and 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and under the State Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51) in relation to this public health emergency.

SECTION 4: Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39:1551, et seq.) and Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2211, et seq.) and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any good or services necessary to respond to this emergency.

SECTION 5: Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:732(A), prices charged or value received for goods and services sold may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk.
incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.

SECTION 6: In addition to any authority conferred generally herein or by law, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, through consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health, shall have the primary jurisdiction, responsibility and authority for:

1. Planning and executing public health emergency assessment, mitigation, preparedness response, and recovery for the state;

2. Coordinating public health emergency response between state and local authorities;

3. Collaborating with relevant federal government authorities, elected officials of other states, private organizations or companies;

4. Coordinating recovery operations and mitigation initiatives subsequent to public health emergencies;

5. Organizing public information activities regarding public health emergency response operations; and

6. Taking any other measures deemed necessary and proper, as authorized by law.

SECTION 7: The following travel restrictions will apply to all state employees:

A. All state employees intending to travel beyond the continental United States shall review the CDC’s website at http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices to determine if the country to be visited has been identified as posing a threat of contracting COVID-19;

B. All state employees traveling on state business to areas designated as Warning Level 2 or Level 3 or above by the CDC are hereby directed to cancel or postpone these trips; all employees traveling internationally to other countries are hereby required to obtain specific authorization from the Commissioner of Administration;

C. All state employees intending to travel internationally for non-official reasons are hereby directed to notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director of the travel as soon as possible, but in no event later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to travel, and immediately upon return to the United States;

D. All state employees with household members who intend to travel or have traveled to areas designated as Warning Level 2 or Level 3 or above by the CDC are hereby directed to notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director of the travel as soon as possible, but in no event later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the household member’s departure, to state the household member’s expected date of return, and to notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director immediately upon the household member’s actual return to the United States; and

E. All state employees shall notify their supervisor and Human Resources Director if the employee or a household member develops symptoms associated with COVID-19.

SECTION 8: The Civil Service Commission and the Division of Administration are hereby directed to develop a set of guidelines for state employees who are infected with COVID-19 or under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19. Such guidelines shall include direction for the management of sick leave by state
employees and provide for direction, if possible, for the employee to work remotely. The guidelines developed by the Civil Service Commission and the Division of Administration shall be put into effect by this order.

SECTION 9: All orders allowing for visitation by the parent of a foster child that resides in a home that is quarantined or isolated due to COVID-19 are hereby suspended. The Department of Child and Family Services is hereby ordered to make all reasonable efforts to allow for alternative visitation.

SECTION 10: This Proclamation shall be disseminated promptly by means reasonably calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public. The Proclamation shall also be promptly filed with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, with the Department of Health, Office of Public Health, and with the Secretary of State.

SECTION 11: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this event.

SECTION 12: This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Wednesday, March 11, 2020 to Thursday, April 9, 2020, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge on this 11th day of March, 2020.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE