

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IPHCA: Authorities Urge Health Care Providers to Prepare for Potential Spread of Coronavirus

SPRINGFIELD - The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are calling on health care providers to take precautions to prevent and mitigate the risk of a potential future spread of coronavirus to the United States.

The CDC continues to monitor closely the spread of coronavirus abroad. Today, the federal agency held a [telebriefing](#) on their strategy for preventing and slowing a potential outbreak in the US. At this time, there is no vaccine for coronavirus. As a result, central to the CDC's strategy are non-pharmaceutical interventions which individuals, institutions, and communities can adopt and adapt based on local conditions.

The CDC has also issued [guidance on concrete steps health care providers and community partners can take](#) to ready themselves.

Today, IDPH also issued a [statement](#) announcing cross-system efforts the Department is undertaking with local, state, and federal entities to ensure Illinois is prepared and residents are protected. They are conducting an assessment of hospital capacity in case quarantines are needed in addition to assessing the availability of personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, and gowns for health care workers. Earlier this month, Illinois became the first state to provide in-state testing and IDPH is working to increase testing capacity to ensure rapid results.

We at the Illinois Primary Health Care Association will continue to relay updates as new recommendations and information become available. Resources are also available through the National Association for Community Health Centers [here](#).

In the interim, we encourage community health center staff, patients, and the public to take personal, community, and environmental preventative action to reduce the risk of infection by:

- Staying home when sick,
- Covering coughs and sneezes,
- Washing hands frequently, and
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects routinely.

These measures are the frontlines of defense against the spread of the virus and will help keep Illinoisans healthy.

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