July 17, 2020 Update

Surveillance
- Please visit the TDH COVID-19 webpage for Tennessee's most up-to-date case count or CDC's COVID View: a weekly surveillance summary of U.S. COVID-19 activity.
- Numerous counties have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases across the state. Information by county is available online.
- Although COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased, they represent ~5% of all hospitalized patients in TN, and hospital capacity remains stable across Tennessee.

Response
- In partnership with the Tennessee Entertainment Commission, the Economic Recovery Group released new Tennessee Pledge guidelines on July 13th to address the unique needs of the film, TV, and music industry.
- To assist with plans for safe reopening, $81 million in grants have been made available for K-12 schools and higher education institutions.
- Governor Bill Lee signed:
  - Executive Order 54, granting mayors in 89 counties the authority to issue local mask requirements in the event of a significant rise in COVID-19 cases. Sullivan, Knox, Hamilton, Davidson, Madison, and Shelby counties retain existing authority to issue mask requirements as needed.
  - Executive Order 50, extending the State of Emergency in Tennessee to August 29th.
  - Executive Order 51 and 52, extending provisions that allow for electronic government meetings subject to transparency safeguards and remote notarization and witnessing of documents, respectively, to August 29th.
- The Unified Command Group outlined the standard public health responses to an increase in cases:
  - Increased public messaging
  - Outreach and coordination with local community and unique population groups
  - Increasing testing access and availability
  - Prevention messaging
- Tennessee's long-term care facilities are reinstating visitations under specific safety protocols.

Ongoing TDH Activities
- Supporting COVID-19 assessments at local health departments.
- Operating information lines for public inquiries and maintaining a clinician's consultation line.
- Sharing information via social media networks and the TDH COVID-19 webpage and conducting telebriefings for healthcare providers, hospitals, and partner agencies.
- Investigating cases, tracing contacts, and monitoring cases and contacts.
- Utilizing the Healthcare Resource Tracking System to monitor COVID-19 hospitalization numbers, personal protective equipment inventories and strain on the healthcare system.
- Recruiting medical professionals through the Medical Reserve Corps Program.
- Supporting state laboratory testing.

Important Reminders
- COVID-19 tests are free to all in local health departments.
- A hotline is available for frontline healthcare workers, implemented by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.
- The Tennessee Pledge: a plan to help Tennesseans return to work in a safe environment, restore their livelihoods and reboot the state's economy.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing is difficult.
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water (or alcohol-based hand rub) for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.

Recent Guidance from CDC
- New: Toolkit for Colleges and Universities | Toolkit for Employees and Worker Safety | About CDC COVID-19 Data | Maintaining Essential Services for Malaria in Low-Resource Countries | Research Use Only CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex Assay Real-Time RT-PCR Primers and Probes | Summary Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE during Shortages
- Updated: COVID-19 One-Stop Shop Toolkits | Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19 | Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic | Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection | CDC's Diagnostic Test for COVID-19 Only and Supplies | COVIDView Purpose and Methods| Hospitalization Forecasts | Previous Hospitalization Forecasts | Cases and Deaths in the U.S.