



Statement on COVID-19: Issued on 3/12/20

As the nation confronts the new public health crisis with the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Premier Community HealthCare wants to assure you we are here to support the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health. We are dedicated to serving the health concerns of the entire community, especially our health center patients and healthcare workers on the front line.

Premier has applied the recommended precautions, along with increased communication and sanitization to continue offering uncompromising quality and accessible health care services. We are working closely with the Florida Department of Health to execute the guidelines put in place by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) towards protecting our community members, patients and staff from COVID-19.

If you or a family member are experiencing the following symptoms: fever, cough, and shortness of breath please consult with the Florida Department of Health by email at **COVID-19@flhealth.gov** or call **866-779-6121**.

We urge you to rely on official sources for information and remind you that practicing personal hygiene is your best defense:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm, not your hands.
- If you are sick, please stay home and avoid gatherings/crowds.

The Florida Department of Health is the lead agency for our state of Florida for all virus-related inquiries. For the most up-to-date information about COVID-19, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov. FDOH has also opened a COVID-19 Call Center that is available to answer any of your questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The number is 866-779-6121 or email your questions to COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

For the latest global updates please visit:

- **World Health Organization:** www.who.int
- **Centers for Disease Control:** www.cdc.gov

Premier Community HealthCare continues to monitor the rapidly changing situation and are committed to your health. We are operating regular business hours and remain ready to serve our community as we work together to address the COVID-19 concerns. As a community health center, we are here to serve all persons, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. We care for all patients regardless of ability to pay and offer a discount fee program based on income and household size. For more information, please visit our website: **www.premierhc.org**



What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- 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. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

