



Louisiana Public Health Association, Inc.

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Affiliated with the American Public Health Association

Louisiana Public Health Association Response to COVID-19

The Louisiana Public Health Association (LPHA) strongly urges all Louisianans to follow all public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Louisiana Department of Health including frequent and thorough handwashing, social (physical) distancing, and staying at home except for essential tasks. Our success depends on our collective action. Together, we must protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

COVID-19 is a new disease and has caused a major disruption in life as we know it. This infectious disease pandemic has shown us how connected we are as a society, and no one is spared from its devastating consequences and necessary restrictions. LPHA commends our Governor, John Bel Edwards, and all leaders across the state for their ongoing efforts to recommend, enact and enforce stay at home mandates, physical distancing measures, and limiting restaurant establishments to take out only, which further limits exposure and spread of COVID-19 among individuals.

We are especially concerned with those who are at higher risk for severe illness including older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions including chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma; serious heart conditions and people who are immunocompromised. Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.

We strongly support the call for additional supplies, including essential personal protective equipment (PPE) for our health care workers who are essential. Additional public health funding and staffing to support testing, follow up with those infected and their contacts, and compliance to pandemic orders is required as well. In addition, we should make efforts to further expand testing for COVID-19, as a key factor for epidemic control with additional control measures of case and contact follow-up.

LPHA supports and thanks all levels of our healthcare and public health providers who are working day and night as the *First Line of Defense* to protect us all.

We are all in this crisis together; everyone has a role to keep us safe and stay well for a healthier outcome for Louisiana. To find out more about COVID-19 visit coronavirus.gov.

Stay Safe, Stay Well

Board of Directors
Louisiana Public Health Association

The Louisiana Public Health Association (LPHA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1948 and is an affiliate member of the American Public Health Association. The mission of LPHA is to promote health in the State of Louisiana. To find out more about LPHA, our mission and our work, please visit www.lpha.org.