



Department of
Health

Sevier County
Health Department

Over the past few weeks, COVID-19 testing conducted at the health department's testing site has shown an increasing number of positive results. As more people are out in the community and capacity limits are expanding, be reminded the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about six feet). Maintaining proper social distancing and wearing a face mask remain critical to reducing potential spread.

The Sevier County Health Department is urging businesses to follow the [Tennessee Pledge](#) guidelines, including those specific to your industry, to ensure safety and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It's important to remember this virus is still spreading in our community, and we need to work together and continue to implement measures to protect consumers and employees.

- ✓ **Screen all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms using the attached TN Department of Health's *COVID-19 Screening Questions and Guidelines***
 - Employer should maintain the confidentiality of employee health information.
 - Those notified of exposure to a positive COVID-19 case may be tested upon notification of exposure.
 - **COVID-19 testing sites** are located throughout Tennessee, **including the local drive-through site at the Sevier County Health Department, which offers testing Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at no charge for those who wish to be tested.**
 - People who have NO symptoms, but still want to be tested are no longer required to isolate pending the test results.
 - Essential workers exposed to a positive COVID-19 case who have NO symptoms may continue to work, but **MUST BE REQUIRED** to wear a mask, practice social distancing and practice good hygiene.
- ✓ **Temperature screening employees:**
 - **Best practice:** employers to take temperatures onsite with a no-touch thermometer each day upon arrival at work. Normal temperature should not exceed 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ✓ **Staff should wear face coverings** – covering the nose, mouth and chin, and other personal protection items as recommended by CDC. Customers should be strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.
- ✓ **Employees should increase hygiene practices** – wash hands more frequently, avoid touching face, practice good respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing.
- ✓ **Provide hand sanitizing stations** in staff areas such as wash stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer.
- ✓ **Provide regular updates and training for employees** about personal COVID-19 mitigation and safeguards based on CDC guidelines.

- ✓ **Mitigate exposure in the workplace** by implementing social distancing guidelines and modifying schedules.
 - **Prohibit congregating in break rooms or common areas** and limit capacity of such areas to allow for a safe social distancing minimum of six feet

- ✓ **Implement workplace cleaning and disinfection** practices, according to CDC guidelines, with regular sanitization of high-touch surfaces at least every two hours.

- ✓ **Post signage on health policies** to help educate building occupants on COVID-19 best practices. These can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc.

More detailed Tennessee Pledge guidance by industry sector is available at [TNpledge.com](https://www.tnpledge.com), along with resources to educate and equip businesses for long-term success. Large businesses may [request pop-up testing events](#) for employees returning to work.

To stay informed about COVID-19 visit www.CDC.gov or www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html or call the Tennessee Department of Health information line at 877-857-2945 with questions.