



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

COVID-19 Update

March 13, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

The Arkansas Medical Society will be providing updates on this rapidly changing COVID-19 situation to our members on a weekly basis.

Latest Statistics

On March 11, a patient at Jefferson Regional Medical Center was determined to be the first "presumed positive" case of COVID-19 in Arkansas. According to the Arkansas Department of Health today (3/13), there are now 6 presumed positive cases in Arkansas, 20 persons under investigation, and 135 recent travelers being monitored by ADH. There have been 24 past persons under investigation that have had negative test results.

COVID-19 Test Availability

According to ADH's Center for Health Protection, some commercial labs DO have the COVID-19 test available. Providers should use commercial labs and follow the commercial lab guidance for specimen collection.

Should the situation warrant sending the specimen to the ADH Public Health Lab, please use the [specimen collection guidance](#).

For the public, UAMS provides [free online screenings](#) for all Arkansans who have questions about whether they may have the coronavirus.

How can I safely prepare my medical office staff?

Physicians who employ staff at medical offices need to maintain a safe workplace while continuing to serve patients who may or may not have been exposed to the virus. Here are a few document that will be helpful in screening patients:

- [Job Aid for Clinicians](#)
- [Patients Under Investigation Form](#)
- [Public Health Notice Sign](#)
- [CDC Healthcare Professional Preparedness Checklist](#)

More guidelines for physicians and medical staff will be coming from ADH soon, but in the meantime, here are a few things to consider to keep you and your staff safe:

- If a patient calls to schedule an appointment for an acute respiratory illness and/or high fever, he/she should be screened using the CDC guidelines and PUI form.
- Have the receptionist or nurse triage patients with the symptom checklist and develop front-door and office signage that informs patients who are exhibiting any of the PUI evaluation criteria.
- Limit staff exposure to suspected patients with the exam door kept closed.
- Practice proper infection control and sterilization measures.

Medical Meetings

Canceled:

AMS State Medical Organizations Group
March 18, Little Rock

AR Dermatological Society Annual Meeting
April 4-5, Hot Springs

AR MGMA
April 29-30, Little Rock

What does "Presumed Positive" mean?

"Presumptive positive" means samples from these individuals tested positive for COVID-19 at a reference laboratory.

After receiving a positive result, those results will to be confirmed by the CDC.

View all COVID-19 Resources at
[ARKMED.org](https://arkmed.org).

