



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## **COVID-19 School Briefing**

**March 12, 2020**



This is an **emerging, rapidly evolving situation**. Information in this presentation is current as of March 11, 2020. Please check the state website for the most current information and guidance.

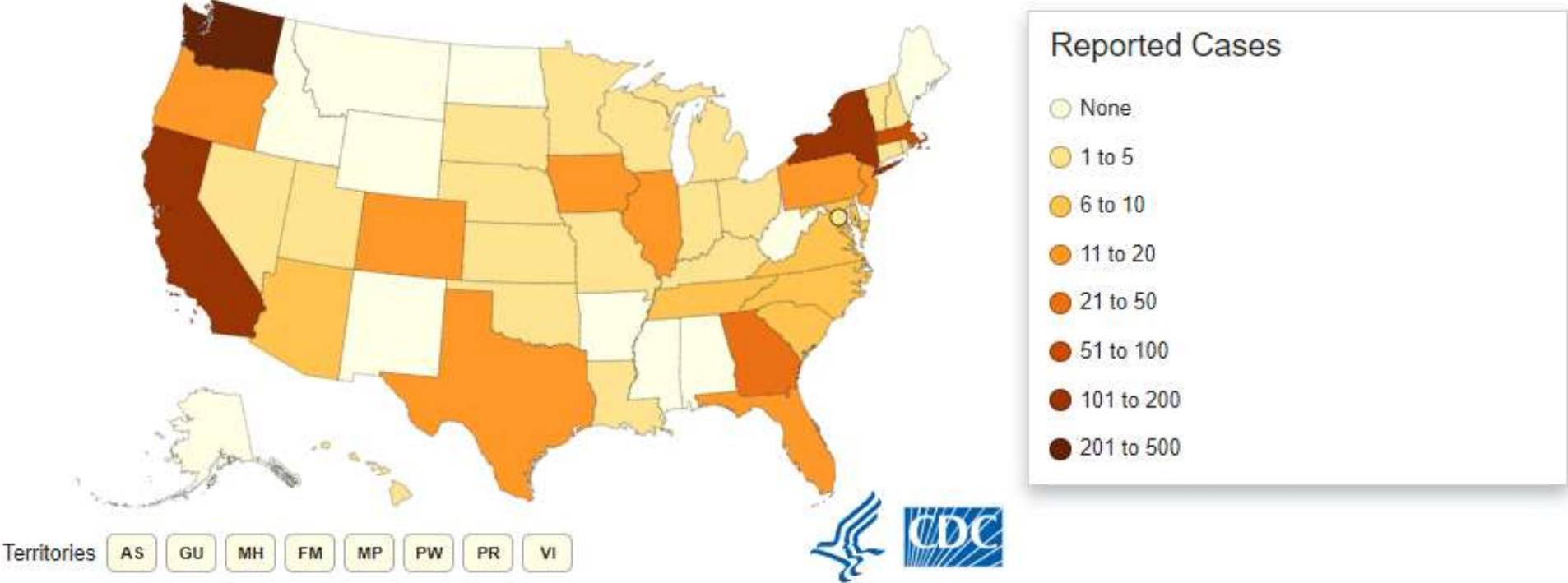
**COVID.SD.GOV**



# What are Coronaviruses

- ❖ This family of viruses includes the common cold, SARS, and MERS
- ❖ Cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illness
  - Runny nose
  - Headache
  - Cough
  - Sore throat
  - Fever
- ❖ Sometimes cause lower-respiratory tract illness (e.g., pneumonia or bronchitis)
- ❖ Transmission: breathing in air of infected person, direct close contact, indirect contact via objects or surfaces
  
- ❖ COVID-19 – disease caused by the virus
- ❖ SARS-CoV-2 – the virus

# Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases- CDC



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>



## South Dakota Response

- ❖ Partial activation of state EOC for coordination and planning with partners and other state agencies
- ❖ Communicating regularly with CDC and healthcare providers through regular calls and special alerts to provide the latest information and guidance
- ❖ Launched a COVID-19 website



## Community Mitigation

- ❖ Emphasize individual responsibility for implementing recommended personal-level actions
- ❖ Implement actions to protect persons at increased risk
- ❖ Focus on settings that provide critical infrastructure or services to individuals at increase risk of severe illness
- ❖ Minimize disruptions to daily life to the extent possible

Factor	Potential mitigation activities according to level of community transmission or impact of COVID-19 by setting		
	None (preparedness phase)	Minimal to moderate	Substantial
<b>Schools/childcare</b> "What childcare facilities, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities can do to prepare for COVID-19, if the school or facility has cases of COVID-19, or if the community is experiencing spread of COVID-19)"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know where to find local information on COVID-19 and local trends of COVID-19 cases.</li> <li>• Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if students or staff become symptomatic at school/childcare site.</li> <li>• Review and update emergency operations plan (including implementation of social distancing measures, distance learning if feasible) or develop plan if one is not available.</li> <li>• Evaluate whether there are students or staff who are at increased risk of severe illness and develop plans for them to continue to work or receive educational services if there is moderate levels of COVID-19 transmission or impact.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Parents of children at increased risk for severe illness should discuss with their health care provider whether those students should stay home in case of school or community spread.</li> <li>» Staff at increased risk for severe illness should have a plan to stay home if there are school-based cases or community spread.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Encourage staff and students to stay home when sick and notify school administrators of illness (schools should provide non-punitive sick leave options to allow staff to stay home when ill).</li> <li>• Encourage personal protective measures among staff/students (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette).</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.</li> <li>• Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available in buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement social distancing measures:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reduce the frequency of large gatherings (e.g., assemblies), and limit the number of attendees per gathering.</li> <li>» Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g., stagger recess, entry/dismissal times)</li> <li>» Limit inter-school interactions</li> <li>» Consider distance or e-learning in some settings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Consider regular health checks (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) of students, staff, and visitors (if feasible).</li> <li>• Short-term dismissals for school and extracurricular activities as needed (e.g., if cases in staff/students) for cleaning and contact tracing.</li> <li>• Students at increased risk of severe illness should consider implementing individual plans for distance learning, e-learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broader and/or longer-term school dismissals, either as a preventive measure or because of staff and/or student absenteeism.</li> <li>• Cancellation of school-associated congregations, particularly those with participation of high-risk individuals.</li> <li>• Implement distance learning if feasible.</li> </ul>

## Keeping the school safe

Encourage your faculty, staff, and students to...

### Practice good hygiene



- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

### Consider rearranging large activities and gatherings



- Consider adjusting or postponing gatherings that mix between classes and grades
- Adjust after-school arrangements to avoid mixing between classes and grades
- When possible, hold classes outdoors or in open, well-ventilated spaces

### Handle food carefully



- Limit food sharing
- Strengthen health screening for cafeteria staff and their close contacts
- Ensure cafeteria staff and their close contacts practice strict hygiene

### Stay home if...



- They are feeling sick
- They have a sick family member in their home

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus





## **For More Information**

<https://covid.sd.gov>

1-800-738-2301