

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of Alabama. With the diverse population and local industries with ties to some of the affected countries, EAMC officials are taking the necessary steps to prepare for the possibility of COVID-19 presenting itself in our region.

COVID-19 vs. Coronavirus

The word coronavirus is used to describe common human viruses that circulate in the U.S. To eliminate confusion, we refer to the coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China in November 2019 as COVID-19.

What to Know if You Have Recently Traveled or Plan to Travel

- People with a history of travel in the past 14 days to regions where there is widespread ongoing sustained community transmission of COVID-19* and **ARE NOT** experiencing symptoms should call the Alabama Department of Health Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division at 1-800-338-8374.
- People who have a history of travel in the past 14 days to regions where there is widespread ongoing sustained community transmission of COVID-19* and **ARE** experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, cough or difficulty breathing, should call EAMC at 334-528-SICK. **People should NOT visit a doctor's office or the ER prior to calling this number.**
- People with flu-like symptoms who **HAVE NOT** traveled or been around anyone who has traveled to regions where there is widespread ongoing sustained community transmission of COVID-19* should stay home and treat symptoms with over-the-counter medications.

If there is another situation in which you believe you may have come into contact with COVID-19, please call EAMC at 334-528-SICK.

Visitor Restrictions

We urge members of our community to practice good hygiene. People who are sick should avoid coming to the hospital to visit patients.

If you have traveled in the past 14 days to regions where there is widespread ongoing sustained community transmission of COVID-19*, you will not be permitted to visit the hospital until 14 days after your return.

Like the seasonal flu, it is the elderly, the very young and those who are immunocompromised who are most at risk. Good hand hygiene, covering your cough and limiting public exposure are the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **Please wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, and stay home when sick.**

EAMC's Preparation

In the past two months, EAMC officials have been tracking COVID-19 regarding its spread, and protocols on isolation and treatment, and have participated in conference calls with the CDC, the ADPH and the Alabama Hospital Association.

Instructional signage has been placed at the main entry points at EAMC, EAMC-Lanier and at the AU Medical Clinic, and we are continuing communication to all area physicians to make them aware of our actions and plans.

Fred Kam, M.D., the medical director of the Auburn University Medical Clinic, is a member of the AU Task Force regarding COVID-19. He attends meetings at AU and EAMC and shares information on the actions each is taking to address the COVID-19 situation.

EAMC officials have met with the mayor and city officials from Opelika and Auburn, with plans to meet with other local city and school officials.

Staff members at EAMC are being trained on every component of caring for a patient with COVID-19, including the donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) so as not to spread the virus to other patients or employees.

*As of March 4, regions where there is widespread ongoing sustained community transmission of COVID-19 include: China, Iran, South Korea, Italy and Japan.