

**March 15, 2020**

## **ADPH releases latest update on COVID-19 coronavirus testing**

MOBILE, Alabama — The Alabama Department of Public Health announced this evening that the number of positive COVID-19 coronavirus cases has expanded to 22 Alabama residents. There is still no confirmed case in Mobile County.

The ADPH has updated its website (<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>) to show Jefferson County now has 12 cases, while Baldwin County has one cases.

There was one case confirmed to be from out of the state, but that case is no longer listed on the ADPH website. Arrol Sheehan with ADPH said the out-of-state case has been removed because states do not include residents of other states in their counts (for all diseases, not just COVID-19). ADPH has contacted the health department in the appropriate state and that state is now counting its resident, who has returned there.

The new numbers for the locations are:

- Baldwin County - 1 case
- Elmore County - 1 case
- Jefferson County - 12 cases
- Lee County - 1 case
- Limestone County - 1 case
- Montgomery County - 1 case
- Shelby County - 2 cases
- Tuscaloosa County - 3 cases

Most patients with COVID-19 infection have mild respiratory illness along with fever, cough and shortness of breath. Some have more severe symptoms that require hospitalization. Health officials urge anyone experiencing symptoms to first notify their healthcare provider so that proper precautions can be taken.

As a precaution, it is suggested that any gatherings of more than 500 people be postponed or canceled. As with the flu, common cold, or any respiratory illness, it is important that everyone continue to take steps to protect themselves and others by minimizing the risk of disease spread. This includes practicing good hand hygiene, avoiding close contact with sick persons, staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
mbryant@mchd.org | 251.690.8823

Persons who are 65 years and older and those with health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and other conditions that can weaken the immune system should limit their interactions with any persons who have respiratory symptoms since they are most at risk.

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