



**Recommendations for the Control of
COVID-19 in West Virginia Communities**
Current recommendations: Low to moderate transmission
March 13, 2020



In accordance with the community mitigation strategies recommended by the State of West Virginia, the Putnam County Health Department and the Putnam County Emergency Services Office are issuing the attached recommendations.

The goals for using these community mitigation strategies is to slow the transmission of disease and in particular to protect individuals at increased risk for severe illness, including older adults and persons of any age with underlying health conditions and to protect health care and other critical infrastructure workforces. These strategies are in direct alignment with those recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The recommendations apply to businesses, workplaces, schools, community organizations, health care institutions, and individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and health profiles. Everyone has some measure of responsibility to help limit the spread of this disease. Even individuals who are healthy can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others.

Current information may be found on the Putnam County Health Department's web site pchdvw.org or at coronaviruswv.gov.

Putnam County agencies entrusted with the safety and health of the community will continue to prepare as a County and provide information to the public.

Individuals and Families at Home

1. Individuals 60 years and older or people with compromised immune systems should avoid non-essential public places.
2. Reconsider non-essential travel

Communities

1. Cancel all large mass gatherings or special events (e.g. sporting events, large religious gatherings, festivals, concerts, or any other event that bring a large group of people into a shared space).
 - a. Community groups and churches should consider holding gatherings in alternative methods, i.e. video and/or conference calls.
2. Determine ways to continue providing support services to individuals at increased risk of severe disease (services, meals, checking in) while limiting group settings and exposures.

Schools

1. Schools have been closed until further notice per the Governor's order on March 13, 2020.

Workplaces

1. Encourage staff to telework (when feasible), particularly individuals at increased risk for severe illness.
2. Consider cancelling large work-related gathering (e.g. in-person meetings, conferences, etc.).
3. Consider cancelling all in and out of state non-essential travel.

Healthcare Settings (Including long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, and hospitals)

1. Implement changes to visitor policies to further limit exposures to at risk residents and healthcare personnel.
2. Restrict all visitation to long-term care facilities and assisted living facilities except for serious medical situations.
3. Implement social distancing measures:
 - a. Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g. stagger meals, arrival/departure, etc.).