

# Testing sites set up in state for COVID-19

## Press Release

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) will now be keeping an active list of local COVID-19 testing sites throughout the state.

The list has been provided to MSDH from local county emergency management agencies and local providers. It will be updated daily when positive cases are updated on the MSDH website (usually mid-morning).

Residents are asked to call the facility before coming in for possible testing as procedures will differ from site to site. A fever of 100.4 AND severe cough or chest pain is required to receive testing.

The list of facilities that will be testing starting on

Monday is as follows:

- Forrest General Hospital – Hattiesburg
- Hattiesburg Clinic – Hattiesburg
- Gulfport Memorial Hospital – Gulfport
- St. Dominic Hospital – Jackson
- Itawamba/Med Plus Urgent Care – Fulton
- Lee/Med Plus Urgent Care – Tupelo
- Memorial Drinkwater Internal Medicine Walk-In Clinic – Bay St. Louis
- Memorial Long Beach Walk-In Clinic – Long Beach
- Memorial Physician Walk-In Clinics – Walmart – Biloxi
- Memorial Primary Care Cedar Lake – Biloxi
- Memorial Stone County

- Medical Center – Wiggins
  - Memorial Surgery Center of Ocean Springs – Ocean Springs
  - Neshoba General Hospital – Philadelphia
  - North Mississippi Medical Center – Tupelo
  - Singing River Health System Clinics – Ocean Springs
  - Singing River Health System Clinics – Pascagoula
  - Singing River Health System Clinics – Hurley
  - Singing River Health System Clinics – Vancleave
  - Singing River Health System Clinics – Woolmarket
- For contact information for these facilities, visit [www.HealthyMS.com/covid-19](http://www.HealthyMS.com/covid-19). Keep up with the latest COVID-19 information by downloading the free MS Ready mobile app or follow MSDH by email and social media at [www.HealthyMS.com/connect](http://www.HealthyMS.com/connect).

# State health officials urge elective and invasive procedures to be delayed

## Press Release

The Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) strongly supports the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommendation for all physicians and providers to delay all elective surgery and invasive procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American College of Surgeons recently issued similar recommendations, encouraging hospitals, health systems, and surgeons to delay inpatient, elective surgical and procedural cases and to reschedule elective and non-urgent surgeries.

Delaying these procedures and visits will help reduce potential exposure to COVID-19 for patients and staff, which is aligned with the current national and state recommendations for social distancing. The CDC's primary goals during the COVID-19 outbreak include minimizing disease transmission, protecting healthcare personnel, and preserving healthcare system functioning. Delaying elective surgery supports these important goals and helps keep patients and healthcare employees safe,

which should be our primary objective as we respond to this pandemic. Importantly, this recommendation helps to preserve personal protective equipment (PPE), which minimizes potential exposure to COVID-19 for patients, physicians, and other healthcare professionals.

"It's very important to take every precaution to prevent patients from contracting COVID-19," said State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs MD, MPH. "These measures will keep Mississippians safe, and they will also preserve critical medical supplies."

The U. S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, has also advised that hospitals cancel elective surgeries in an effort to decrease the risk of spread of coronavirus within a medical center, protect hospital beds in case of a surge of coronavirus cases, decrease use of protective medical gear, and decrease risk to a hospital workforce who may be needed to respond to COVID-19.

"Physicians, providers, and the public must work together to reduce the potential impact of COVID-19 in the state, and delaying elective surger-

ies is an important step in helping to flatten the curve," said Claude Brunson, MD, executive director of MSMA. "Taking decisive and immediate action on this issue will reduce the spread of the virus and increase the ability of our healthcare system to respond during this crisis."

The most current and ac-

# MSU courses online for spring semester, commencement postponed

## Press Release

In compliance with guidance from Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, Mississippi State University announced today that the university will deliver online or other remote instructional course content for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester. That decision is based on national and state public health protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).

Information on laboratory courses will be communicated to students by their instructors.

Additionally, current CDC

this trying time, but we will get through this together. We are grateful that SBA approved our request in such a swift, timely manner so we are better able to help Mississippi small businesses and their employees weather this storm," said Governor Tate Reeves.

All Mississippi businesses and non-profits that are severely impacted by COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans. These businesses can apply for up to \$2 million in work-

# MDWFP set new rules for state's parks

## Press Release

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be making the following temporary changes to its business operations effective 8 a.m. on March 17, 2020 for the safety of our employees and the general public. These changes will remain in effect until March 31, 2020.

- State and Regional Offices will be closed to the public.
- State Lakes will remain open for those that wish to go fishing; however, State Fishing Lake offices and bath houses will be closed.
- State Parks' bath houses and primitive camping areas will be closed; however, RV camping will remain open.
- The Museum of Natural Science and the North Mississippi Visitor Education

curate information about the impact of COVID-19 in Mississippi is available on the MSDH website at [www.msdh.ms.gov](http://www.msdh.ms.gov). MSMA continues to provide updated information, resources, and guidance about COVID-19 for physicians at [www.msmaonline.com/covid-19](http://www.msmaonline.com/covid-19) and on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

and MSDH guidelines preclude MSU from holding any large public gatherings. Consequently, IHL recommendations are that traditional commencement exercises be indefinitely postponed. Plans to appropriately honor MSU graduates will be discussed and revealed when the national emergency is concluded.

Commencement is one of MSU's most meaningful and cherished traditions, one that our students and their families have earned. As an institution, MSU remains committed to celebrating our graduates at a safe and appropriate time.

Follow [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu) or MSU social media for updates.

ing capital that can provide vital economic support to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue that they are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small business owners can begin the process immediately and apply for assistance by visiting this link: [sba.gov/disaster](http://sba.gov/disaster)

Additionally, the SBA offers a three-step process for disaster loans, which is explained further here: [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Documents/Three\\_Step\\_Process\\_SBA\\_Disaster\\_Loans.pdf](http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Documents/Three_Step_Process_SBA_Disaster_Loans.pdf)

Center will be closed to the public.

• MDWFP Shooting Facilities, Turcotte, McHenry, and McIvor will remain open; however, tournaments and events are canceled.

• MDWFP Wildlife Management Areas will remain open.

During this time, all personnel not assigned to state and regional offices will continue to provide services statewide and remain fully operational.

Any questions regarding licensing or boat registration can be answered by calling 601-432-2055. Any new boat registrations must be processed through a mail-in application. A form can be found at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com) under the fishing and boating tab at the top of the home page.

Purchases of hunting and

fishing license or permits are also available at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com), the MDWFP Hunting and Fishing Mobile App, local agent locations, or by calling 1-800-5-GO-HUNT.

As always if you have a hunting or fishing violation you need to report call 1-800-BE-SMART.

We apologize for any inconvenience during this time and we thank you for your cooperation.

Stay up to date by visit our website at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdwfp](http://www.facebook.com/mdwfp) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline](http://www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline).

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**Lexington Farm Supply**  
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# Disaster assistance available for small businesses impacted by COVID-19

## Press Release

On Friday, March 20, Governor Tate Reeves announced disaster assistance for Mississippi small businesses and their employees impacted by the current outbreak of COVID-19.

Governor Reeves sent a letter to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

requesting an Economic Disaster Declaration to aid small businesses and their employees, which was approved on Friday, March 20, 2020.

"Small businesses and their employees are struggling to stay afloat during