



# PRESS RELEASE

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## COVID-19 Update

Currently, there are nine cases in the West Central Health District. There are four in Muscogee County, two in Sumter, one case each in Harris, Macon, and Randolph Counties.

The West Central Health District has established a toll-free number for COVID-19 information. After the recording, callers may leave a message which will be returned within 24 hours.

**1-855-962-0955**

At this time, the Columbus Health Department is the only Public Health collection site in the West Central Health District. Individuals are encouraged to call 706-321-6300 to have symptoms assessed before arriving at the drive-thru site.

**Elderly people and individuals with chronic medical conditions may be have increased risk for COVID-19.** We urge all individuals to practice these prevention measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you have recently traveled to areas where there are ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19 and develop fever with cough and shortness of breath within 14 days of your travel, or if you have had contact with someone who is suspected to have COVID-19, *stay home and call your health care provider for evaluation and testing. Individuals who have mild symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days.* If residents have no provider or have no insurance, please contact your local health department for guidance.

**Be sure to call before going to a doctor's office, emergency room, or urgent care center and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.** Physicians can assess their patients using the CDC criteria and their contracted laboratory.

For more information [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html).

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*Serving these West Central Georgia Counties: Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, and Webster*