

Are at-home test kits available for the coronavirus? (March 21, 2020)

No. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is actively and aggressively monitoring the market for firms marketing products with fraudulent COVID-19 diagnostic, prevention and treatment claims. At this time, the FDA has not authorized any test that is available to purchase for testing yourself at home for COVID-19.

Resource: [FDA Alerts Consumers About Unauthorized Fraudulent COVID-19 Test Kits](#)

Are there medications that can be used to treat coronavirus? (March 21, 2020)

No. While there are ongoing efforts to determine if existing drugs can be effective against the coronavirus, there are no medications that have been proven to treat coronavirus at this time. We are hopeful that reports that individuals are hoarding medications used for Lupus and other diseases with this mistaken belief are incorrect and would urge anyone doing so to stop immediately.

Is the National Guard being activated in PA to force people to self-quarantine? (March 23, 2020)

No. The National Guard is staging in areas of the state for the purpose of supporting logistics, including the movement of materials and set-up of medical tent sites. They are NOT deployed for force protection or enforcement of non-essential business or for individuals asked to self-quarantine. We hope that everyone understands the seriousness of what we are facing and will do their part to follow the guidance provided. People living in homes with those who have tested positive for COVID-19 need to stay home to reduce spread outside their home.

Is there a travel ban in place for Allegheny County? (March 23, 2020)

No. Governor Wolf has issued a Stay-at-Home order, but there is no curfew or travel ban. The order emphasizes that individuals, to the extent possible, should stay at home and distance themselves from others. There is no change to the life-sustaining businesses and waivers that have previously been in place, or to the requirements for restaurants to limit their operations to take-out and delivery.

Should you avoid using ibuprofen for fever control if you suspect you have COVID-19? (March 23, 2020)

No. There is no scientific evidence that establishes a link between ibuprofen and the worsening of COVID-19 symptoms. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, speak with your healthcare provider regarding the most appropriate health products for the treatment of fever or pain. If you are currently taking ibuprofen, especially for a chronic illness, do not stop taking your medication.

Is it safe to handle mail and packages that are being delivered to your home in light of COVID-19? (March 25, 2020)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "...the likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, traveled and been exposed to different conditions and temperatures is also low." And according to the CDC, "...in general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures.

Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods."

Will social security payments be delayed or stopped because of the COVID-19 pandemic? (March 30, 2020)

No. Social Security and Supplemental Social Security payments will continue to be paid on time during the pandemic. The Social Security Administration has warned recipients to be aware of potential scams to trick people into providing personal information or payment to maintain payments, or receive economic impact payments at this time.

Resource: [Social Security Benefits Will be Paid On Time and Other Updates Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Do we need "papers" to travel within the county and state because of the stay-at-home orders? (April 3, 2020)

No. While many law enforcement agencies and others are taking the opportunity to remind residents of the stay-at-home orders, you do not need to show papers to prove that you are "allowed" to be out. Many companies have taken the proactive step of providing their employees with letters that they can carry as proof that they work for an essential healthcare service in the event that they are stopped or questioned. Such action is not necessary, however.

Is the Health Department calling businesses and threatening owners with fines and penalties if they do not close their doors immediately? (April 21, 2020)

The department has received notice that some business owners are receiving calls threatening fines, closures and jail sentences if they do not follow the Governor's worker safety orders. These calls are NOT coming from the Allegheny County Health Department.

In the event that a representative from the Allegheny County Health Department needs to contact your business concerning COVID-19 compliance, the employee will introduce him or herself by name and health department program. They will then share current guidance and

recommendations to help ensure your business is complying with the governor's orders.

There is video of two California doctors who own urgent care centers who claim that the COVID-19 virus has spread further than previously shown and wasn't all that dangerous. They said that COVID-19 is no worse than the flu, its death rates are low, and that everyone should go back to work and school. Is this information accurate? (May 3, 2020)

Public health experts have been quick to debunk the doctors' findings as misguided and riddled with statistical errors. In fact, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) issued a joint release condemning the opinions. The full statement can be found [here](#).