Children’s Hospital New Orleans and LCMC Health, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Louisiana Office of Public Health, continue to closely monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacting Louisiana.

Pediatricians and their patients should continue to seek up-to-date information about this rapidly evolving situation only from trusted sources – including the AAP, CDC, and local and state health departments.

**COVID-19 in children**
There is no evidence that children are more susceptible to COVID-19. While information is currently limited, there is evidence that children without chronic health problems have a mild and limited course of disease. We know that most confirmed cases of COVID-19 have occurred in adults. There is an ongoing investigation to determine more about this outbreak in children. Updates from the CDC specifically for pregnant women and children can be found here.

**Does LCMC Health have the capability to test for COVID-19?**
Testing capabilities are rapidly evolving in the state of Louisiana. LCMC Health has the capability to collect specimens for COVID-19, but only if certain clinical criteria are met.

**What to do if you are concerned that a patient has coronavirus?**
First, it is important to rule out other infectious causes including influenza. It is likely that many cases will be manageable as outpatients.

Mildly symptomatic patients may not require referral to an emergency department. If you have further questions, please refer to our algorithm for testing patients in the pediatric population.

**Continue to educate patients and families on what everyone can do to help prevent the spread of infection.**
While we are currently experiencing community spread of this virus, everyone can do their part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses like the flu.

- Practice social distancing by avoiding contact with those who are sick, avoiding public spaces, staying home if you are sick unless it’s to get medical care, and maintaining 3-6 feet of distance from others.
- Avoid touching or shaking hands with others.
- Practice hand hygiene by washing hands and using hand sanitizer often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- Cleanse and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
Refer to The Parenting Center as a resource for families

The Parenting Center at Children’s Hospital is dedicated to helping parents and grandparents with the ordinary challenges of raising children. Our staff of parent educators come from a variety of backgrounds to help families grow from birth through adolescence.

While The Parenting Center is closed for families to visit, our staff stands ready to help parents navigate how to talk to kids about the COVID-19 pandemic, and educational and fun activities to do with children while they are home from school. Give The Parenting Center a call at 504.896.9591 or email chparentingcenter@lcmchealth.org.

How can I find out more?

American Academy of Pediatrics

LCMC Health

Healthychildren.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
• What to Do If You Are Sick With Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
• Clinical Care Guidance
• Home Care Guidance
• Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure Guidance
• Frequently Asked Questions for Healthcare Providers

LCMC Health Library Resources
• About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
• Handwashing FAQs

Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation
• Recommendations for Airway Management in a Patient with Suspected COVID-19