

FAQs

A message from David Bixler...

Given the recent increase in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, the following are some frequently asked questions that I hope you will find helpful during these challenging times. Please feel free to ask questions or request additional information.

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Q. What is COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus?

A.: COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed cases. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Q. Is COVID-19 dangerous and a threat to my health or the health of my family and friends?

A. Yes, COVID-19 is a dangerous disease. While many people have shown little to no symptoms when infected, others have developed serious complications and died. The disease is particularly dangerous for older adults, people with compromised immune systems, or those with underlying health issues like diabetes, lung disease, or heart disease.

Q. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), common COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Q. If I have been treated in a physician's office and an employee of the physician's office is positive for COVID-19, what should I do?

A. If you believe you that you have been exposed to COVID-19, you should be tested. Testing is available through the Rhea County Health Department; Monday – Friday; 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.; as well as at the following physician's offices:

Dr. Torben Svendsen
423-285-6240
7794 Rhea County Hwy., Ste. 102
Dayton, TN 37321
Hours: M-W; 8a-5p
Thurs-Friday; 8a-12p

Dr. John Yager
423-299-1390
22024 Rhea Co. Hwy.
Spring City, TN 37381
Hours: M-Th, 8a-5p
Friday; 8a-12p

Dr. Mercedes Payne
423-365-4486
22576 Rhea Co. Hwy., Ste. 1
Spring City, TN 37381
Hours: Mon.; 8a-5p
Tues.; 8a-1p
Wed-Fri.; 8a-5p

Q. How many tests have been performed in Rhea County?

A. Rhea County Health Department, as well as local physician offices, have performed nearly 6,000 tests. This represents approximately 18% of the county population. This compares favorably to the number of tests performed in Tennessee (17.39% of population) and nationally (15% of population).

Q. Given the recent increase in coronavirus cases in Rhea County, is it safe to go to the hospital?

A. Absolutely! When the pandemic reached the United States, Rhea Medical Center immediately implemented heightened cleaning beyond the stringent cleaning routines already in place. Employees are tested when necessary and are required to wear masks at all times for the protection of our patients and staff.

Q. Does Rhea Medical Center treat COVID-19 patients?

A. Yes. Rhea Medical Center treats patients with COVID-19. Several patients have been treated in the Emergency Department as well as inpatients. Patients are treated in rooms specifically designed for patients with an infectious disease.

Q. How can I keep myself and my family safe from COVID-19?

A. The best way to avoid getting sick from COVID-19 is to avoid exposure to the virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the best practices for avoiding COVID-19 infections are to:

- Wash hands often
- Avoid close contact with others
- Stay home as much as possible
- Clean & disinfect regularly
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others.
- Cover coughs & sneezes

Q. What are the best sources to get information about COVID-19?

A. It is critical to share accurate information with the public about the virus. The Following websites are reliable sources of information and are updated frequently. Share with your loved ones and neighbors.

- www.rheamedical.org
- www.cdc.gov
- www.tn.gov/health
- www.tn.gov/covid19
- www.tn.gov/smallbusiness