



Spring  
is in  
the air...



# Taylor Hardin TIMES

April 2020

## A QUICK RECAP:

*AS YOU KNOW, WE CELEBRATED NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH, NATIONAL NUTRITIONAL MONTH, AND NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY IN MARCH. READ MORE BELOW TO SEE JUST HOW WE CELEBRATED...*

On Tuesday, March 9, 2020, the Taylor Hardin Social Work Department held a Hot Dog Fundraiser for staff in order to raise money for the Social Work Fund. The Social Work Fund is used to provide additional support and service to our patients including the festivals and holiday activities. In addition, the Fund is also utilized to celebrate Taylor Hardin employees whether it be birthdays or employment milestones.

The fundraiser this year ended with a profit of \$262 that will go toward supporting our patients and the facility.

We want to extend a thank you to our sponsors who helped by providing donations to aid in reducing the cost of overhead expenses for the fundraiser.

Thank you to Buffalo Rock for providing bottled water and Black Warrior Protective Coatings for providing chips.

Thank you to Cobb Theatres and Jim N Nicks for contributing door prizes to be raffled.

We see this years fundraiser as a huge success and look forward to using the profits to support positive growth within Taylor Hardin!



### KEY DATES IN APRIL 2020

April 1: April Fool's Day

April 7: World Health Day

April 10: Good Friday

April 12: Easter Sunday

April 22: Earth Day

April 22: Administrative Professionals Day

On this day (and every day) we want to thank the THSMF Administrative staff for the tremendous job they do!

# GETTING THE MOST FROM OUR NEWSLETTERS

*ONE OF THE MOST ASKED QUESTIONS WE HEAR IS , "WHAT DOES TAYLOR HARDIN DO?"*

Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility was established in 1981 and is the only maximum security forensic facility operated by the Alabama Department of Mental Health. THSMF is responsible for providing comprehensive psychiatric evaluation/treatment to the criminally committed throughout the state and forensic evaluations to the Criminal Courts for the state of Alabama. THSMF provides acute stabilization and long-term care for individuals with serious mental illness.

Patients at THSMF are offered a wide variety of education resources available through individual and group therapies. Our group education classes include, but are not limited to: Courtroom Knowledge, Anger Management, Mental Illness and Chemical Addictions, Social Skills, Fitness, and, Music Therapy. Our facility also has a library for the patients to utilize for education or leisure.

**Have questions?  
Submit them to us!**

## HOW WE ARE ADDRESSING COVID19



Effective immediately all visitation to the Alabama Department of Mental Health Treatment Facilities (Bryce Hospital, Harper Center, and Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility) will be suspended to protect our patients from COVID19. Although we do not have any current cases in our facilities, the decision to restrict visitation follows recommendations from the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Restricting social contacts is considered one of the primary methods used to prevent the spread of this virus. You may continue to maintain contact with your family member through telephone and mail communications until this crisis has subsided. You will be kept informed of your family's status and you may contact your relative's Social Worker if you have additional questions related to his/her status.

All family members will be notified when visitation is able to be resumed. Your assistance with communicating this information to other family members who may be approved for visitation would be much appreciated.

In addition to restricting visitation, our staff and patients are being monitored daily. Every staff member and patient is having their temperature taken daily. For staff, temperatures of 100.3 or greater cannot return to work until they are 24-hours free of temperature.

For your information please see the included Fact Sheet regarding COVID19 published by the CDC.

## Advocate's Corner: Focus on your right to be informed!



Every patient has the right to be informed regarding his rights and the methods available for initiation, review and resolution of rights complaints in language and terms the patient understands. Within 72 hours after a patient's admission to Taylor Hardin, the patient's assigned

social worker meets with him to answer any questions he may have regarding his rights. Taylor Hardin provides every patient and responsible party with a written statement of rights and responsibilities along with procedures to be followed for handling allegations of rights violations. Taylor Hardin obtains a written verification of receipt of rights information from the patient and/or responsible party. Information regarding patient rights and complaint procedures is displayed in all residential and visiting areas of Taylor Hardin. Every patient is informed of and has access to a qualified Alabama Department of Mental Health Advocate (me!). Every patient is informed of the means for accessing the Department's Internal Rights Protection & Advocacy Program. Patients are always allowed access without reprisal!

Have questions regarding the right to be informed? Contact the Internal Rights Protection & Advocacy Program at 1-800-367-0955.



Have a question or comment about the newsletter? Contact Chloe Tilley by phone at 205-462-4543 or by email at [chloe.tilley@hardin.mh.alabama.gov](mailto:chloe.tilley@hardin.mh.alabama.gov)



# SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT  
**1**

**Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.**

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT  
**2**

**For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.**

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT  
**3**

**Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.**

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT  
**4**

**There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT  
**5**

**You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and you

## What is coronavirus disease 2019?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

## Can I get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the world. Risk of infection from the virus that causes COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

The current list of global locations with cases of COVID-19 is available on CDC's web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html>.

## How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath



## What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

## People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

## If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- 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.

## What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

## Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

## Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.