The COVID-19 pandemic has been and continues to be a formidable global public health challenge. Since the initial emergence of this novel coronavirus in late 2019, the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) has been unrelenting, impacting nearly every aspect of society worldwide. The pandemic has required a substantial response by public health professionals at all levels. To say the least, COVID-19 has intersected virtually every guideline that has been addressed in this Public Health Nursing Manual.

The response to this challenge has been morphing and evolving consistently, and is expected to impact your public health nursing practice for a considerable time to come. Every Health Department and other health-related settings will conduct their response to the pandemic in ways most appropriate for their environments. Diligent collaboration among professionals both within your work office, MDPH, CDC and within your community is essential. Also do not disregard the valuable importance of working closely with your PHN colleagues; we are all in this together!

Resources will be listed in this guideline for your reference as you confront COVID-19-related issues as a PHN.

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed the **CDC Public Health Science Agenda for COVID-19** ( [CDC Public Health Science Agenda for COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-agenda-covid19.html) ) The Agenda provides public health practitioners with an overview of six priority areas on which to focus:

* Disease detection, burden, and impact
* Transmission
* Natural history of SARS-CoV-2 infection
* Protection in healthcare and non-healthcare work settings
* Prevention, mitigation, and intervention strategies
* Social, behavioral, and communication science

Each priority area addresses several objectives. Some of these areas may be applicable to your PHN practice, especially issues concerning topics such as:

* Vaccines
* SARS-CoV-2 Variants
* Natural history, reinfection, and health impact
* Prevention strategies and non-pharmaceutical interventions
* Testing
* Transmission risk and dynamics

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| **COVID-19 Resources** | * [Guidance for COVID-19 | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance.html) * [COVID-19 Information for Health Departments | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-departments/index.html) * [Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) * [COVID-19 Updates and Information | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-updates-and-information) * [COVID-19 Vaccine | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine) |