



# Arkansas Department of Health

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4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000  
Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

April 2, 2020

Dear Legislator,

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has learned that two members of the Arkansas House of Representatives have tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). These individuals attended the special session. They were tested earlier this week, and the test results were received April 1. So far, one person has not had symptoms of COVID-19, which includes no fever, cough, or shortness of breath. One has experienced symptoms.

Transmission among members is unlikely due to social distancing measures taken during the session. In addition, the risk of asymptomatic transmission is likely to be less than from those who are experiencing symptoms.

As a precaution, the ADH recommends that you monitor your temperature and any symptoms you experience. If you should develop fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within the first 14 days after attending the session, please contact your health care provider and request testing.

The ADH is currently conducting contact investigations. We will reach out to you if you are thought to be a close contact to the cases. A close contact is someone who was within six feet of a case for 30 minutes or more.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Naveen Patil, Medical Director for Infectious Disease, at 501-772-3297 or [naveen.patil@arkansas.gov](mailto:naveen.patil@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Smith", with a small "me" written at the end.

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH  
Secretary of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Bledsoe", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Greg Bledsoe, MD, MPH  
Arkansas Surgeon General