

EARLY HEAD START



UPDATE

THE LATEST ON THE CORONAVIRUS

April 01, 2020

The Louisiana Department of Health has updated its website to reflect the latest number of positives and will continue to update its website at noon each day.

As of noon on April 1, the Department reported 1,187 additional cases since yesterday, bringing the total to 6,424 positive cases. This is approximately a 23-percent increase since yesterday.

Hospitalization

A total of 1,498 COVID-19 patients are currently hospitalized, of those, 490 patients require ventilation.

Deaths

The Department reports an additional 34 deaths since yesterday, bringing the total to 273 deaths. Deaths are listed on the LDH dashboard by parish under the by parish tab and information by age can be found on the by age group tab.

Long-term care facilities

The Department of Health has identified COVID-19 clusters in 47 long-term care facilities in the state. For context, there are a total of 436 nursing homes and adult residential care facilities in Louisiana. These facilities have been notified by the Department of Health. A cluster is identified as two or more cases that appear to be connected. Because of the sheer volume of cases, we will be sharing the updated number of clusters every day at noon. We will rely on facilities for reporting on the most up-to-date information. The Department continues to work with facilities to minimize the spread of the illness and protect residents and staff. A cluster is considered cleared 28 days after the last positive test result.

BE COUNTED!

COUNTING CHILDREN IN THE 2020 CENSUS

The 2020 Census helps determine which areas qualify for the critical resources that children and families depend on for the next 10 years - basically an entire childhood! An estimated 5 percent of kids under the age of 5 were missed in the 2010 Census. At about 1 million babies and young children, that's the largest undercount of any age group. We need your help closing this gap in the 2020 Census. To learn more about how you can be counted, visit <https://www.2020census.gov>.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

CONNECTING AT HOME

This month, EHS is providing each student with a FREE book! The book selected to help build your home library is *Biscuit's Pet and Play Easter*. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time together while sharing your love of reading.

Reading with your child helps build language and thinking skills. Even before children can talk, story time helps build babies' brains.

Enjoy Story Time Together by making funny sounds or singing songs as you read or tell stories. Reading is a great time for back-and-forth interactions with your child. This is how children learn best.

Read Daily by picking a regular time to read to your child, like every morning or at bedtime. Routines help children thrive. They may even like to hear the same books over and over again.

Books Introduce New Words so choose books in your home language that focus on different topics, like animals, noises, or shapes. This is a great way to expose children to a variety of words. Reading books with new words helps build your child's vocabulary.

Create a Dialogue by talking to your child about the pictures in the book. "See the duck? The duck is yellow! What else in this picture is yellow?" Storytelling can go beyond the words on the page. This helps children build language and thinking skills.

FAMILY RESOURCES

THERE IS SUPPORT AVAILABLE

The COVID-19 outbreak has interrupted Louisiana families' daily lives in many ways. Many of us may feel overwhelmed by the information and news coming in every day. Both adults and children may be feeling stressed and worried about their health and safety.

Children depend on the adults in their lives to help them manage their feelings. They look to adults to see how they should respond and behave. It can be hard for adults to help their children or model healthy responses to stress during difficult times, especially when they are also having strong feelings.

The following resources may be helpful to pregnant people, parents and caregivers, and families with babies and young children.

Are you dealing with stress, depression or anxiety? Here are resources to help:

Keep Calm through COVID Hotline: This free phone line from the Office of Behavioral Health provides trained, compassionate counselors to support Louisianans through this difficult time. Counselors are available 24/7 and can link callers to mental health and substance abuse counseling services. Call 1-866-310-7977.

Postpartum Support International / Postpartum.net:

Provides parents experiencing depression and anxiety with information and support. It also helps connect them to local mental health providers. Visit their website, call the helpline at 800-944-4773 or text 503-894-9453 (English) or 971-420-0294 (Español).



THANK YOU!

TOGETHER IN SERVICE

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the EHS staff for their commitment to serving the needs of our children and families. Through daily touchpoints, our grab and go meals or by sharing valuable information on the coronavirus, we stand with you and pray for your safety. We will get through this TOGETHER!



LEARNING CORNER

TOGETHER-TIME ACTIVITIES - TAKE IT OUTSIDE

The outdoors! Children should go outdoors every day for exercise, fresh air, and fun. You and your children will have greater freedom outdoors to jump, hop, swing, look, and listen. Let your children make noise! Remind them about any rules you have for playing outside.

Talk about all the things you and your children see in the sky, near the house or apartment.

Colors ~ Bright sun ~ Moon ~ Neighbors ~ Cars ~ Shapes ~ Dark clouds ~ Stars ~ Snow ~ Houses

HELP YOUR CHILDREN FIND ANIMALS AND INSECTS.

Tell your children the names of the animals and insects they see and hear.

Ask your children where they think the animals live, how the insects build their homes, where they get their food.

HELP YOUR CHILDREN DIG AND PLANT A GARDEN.

Talk about each tool you are using and what it does.

Look at seed packages and vegetables in the grocery store. Then, decide what to plant: radishes, carrots, and other things that grow fast and that you and your child like are best.

Remind your children to water the growing plants.

LOOK UP TOWARD THE SKY AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE DAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

Talk about the ways that trees bend and what the clouds look like.

Look for changes over time—how are the leaves different in the fall from the spring? Are there more or less birds in the sky now than there were last month?