

Yes Ma'am! Women Lead in Philly

By Mike Blamo

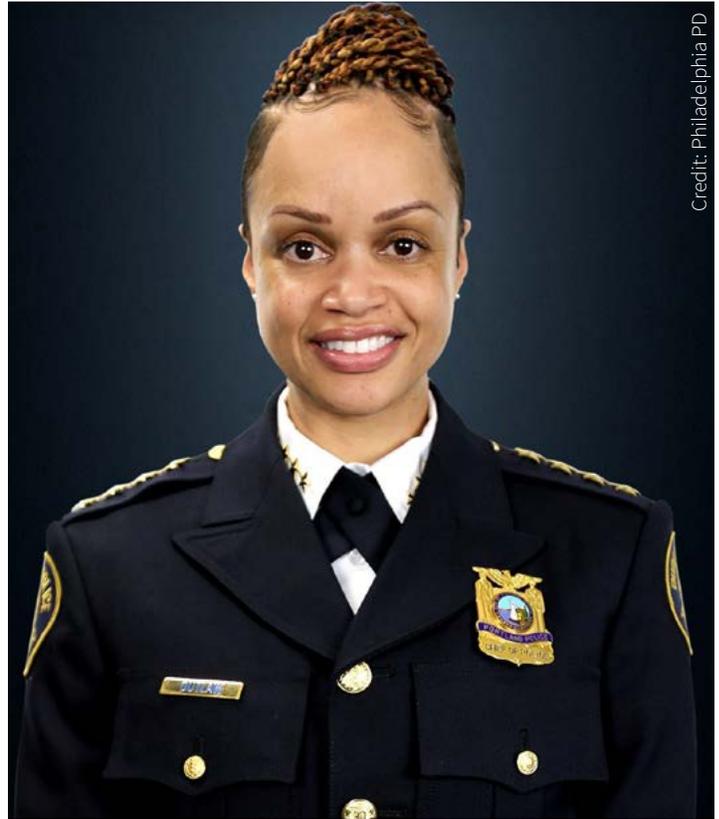
In Philadelphia city government administration, the glass ceiling is cracking and shattering in strange and unusual places: the Philadelphia Police Department, the offices of the Sheriff, and the Registrar of Wills are now headed by African American women of great repute in their chosen careers!

In case you missed the news; there is a new sheriff in town; literally! Early this year, Sheriff Rochelle Bilal was sworn in as the Sheriff for the City and County of Philadelphia. Her election to lead the City's Office of the Sheriff is a major milestone. Not only is



Sheriff Rochelle Bilal

Sheriff Bilal the department's first-ever elected woman, but also, she is the first elected African American woman sheriff in the 181-year history of the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office. Prior to her election, Sheriff Bilal, a 27-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department, was the secretary of the



Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw

Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP.

Her track record in law enforcement and administration included stints in the police department sex crimes and drug trafficking units, patrol and teaching at the Philadelphia Police Training Center.

Bilal is president of the Guardian Civic League, a law enforcement community oversight organization, made up of over 2,500 active and retired Philadelphia police officers. Bilal retired from Philadelphia Police Department in 2013.

Also, early this year, the news from the office of Philadelphia's 'finest' was equally novel and exciting. Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw was sworn into her new position of Philadelphia's police commissioner. Outlaw is the first African American woman to assume that position. Prior to her appointment by Mayor Kenney as Philadelphia's top cop, Outlaw was the chief of Police, Portland, Ore.

In her message to the city shortly after her swearing-in,

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Register of Wills Tracey Gordon

Chief Executive Officer

Voffee Jabateh

General Inquiries

ACANA CDC/Director

Musa Trawally

Phone: 215-729-8225

Email: acanapsv@gmail.com

Contributing Writers

Mike Blamo, Opral Freeman, Fernon Baffour, Ellen Kargbo, Tosin Hezekiah

Contact Information

ACANA Philly Southwest View

5530 Chester Avenue,

Philadelphia, PA 19143

Phone: 215-729-8225

Email: acanapsv@gmail.com

Editorial/Publishing Consultant

USA Media LLC

P.O. Box 33143,

Philadelphia, PA 19142

215-571-9241



African Cultural Alliance
of North America

Hours of Operations

Monday: 10am - 6:30pm

Tuesday: 10am - 6:30pm

Wednesday: 10am - 6:30pm

Thursday: 10am - 6:30pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: By appointments only

Sunday: Closed

MISSION OF ACANA

The African Cultural Alliance of North America Inc. (ACANA) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. ACANA serves African and Caribbean immigrants by providing access to social and legal services, community development programs, health services, organizing African arts and culture events, and an array of many other services.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome ...

FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS, THE AFRICAN CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICA (ACANA) HAS BEEN PART AND PARCEL OF THE PHILADELPHIA SUCCESS STORY.

From our Southwest Philadelphia base, we have passionately carried on our mission of providing a wide range of social, legal, health, and community development services that address many of the newly arriving or underserved African and Caribbean immigrants in our community.

And in all these years, we have seen many people tell our stories whenever, and however they feel like. But as we set out on our 21st year journey of service to our community, we, at ACANA, are proceeding with a commitment to tell our stories: the challenges, victories, etc. from our own perspectives. Hence the birth of ACANA Philly Southwest View

Though located in southwest Philadelphia, our coverage will transcend the location we are named after. Our view will by no means, be restricted solely to our geographical location.

In carrying out our fundamental responsibility of informing, entertaining and educating our audience, ACANA Philly Southwest View will scour and gather pertinent information locally, nationally and internationally; and share same with our target audience every quarter. So, while our primary focus will be on Southwest Philadelphia, we will not operate oblivious of happenings in our neighboring counties and even beyond.

Which is why even amidst the ongoing global coronavirus pandemic, we are cognizant of our social responsibility, especially now that social interaction as we knew it has morphed into something

different. With social distancing now the new norm, ACANA Philly Southwest View will serve as a viable tool to reach out and engage our various publics.

While we will diligently adhere to government and health organizations advice to act and stay safe, we will use ACANA Philly Southwest View to bridge the gap and help us maintain our traditional closeness and affinity to our clients, partners and publics without putting our health and theirs in any form of danger.

Afterall, health, they say, is wealth. Which is why, you will find in this maiden issue helpful resources about the Coronavirus pandemic. Coronavirus is scary, no doubt; but it's not all gloom and doom. You can avoid it, and you can beat it, even if you have it.

Also, in this issue, we introduce you to three amazing African American women calling the shots in Philadelphia's high places! Their stories are testaments to the fact that for the girl child (or any child for that matter), she can be whoever she wants to be; police commissioner, sheriff, register of wills, or even the president of the United States! And while at it, in case you haven't completed your Census 2020 online, it's not too late. Let's get it over with, so our city government can get the fund it needs to provide those important social and medical assistance that we need.

From all of us at ACANA Philly Southwest View, welcome to a new dawn!

T. Kay



Philly Counts 2020 Census

Africans, Caribbean Mobilize for full count

By Ellen Kargbo

April 1, 2020; designated nationwide as Census Day may have come and gone but the efforts to attain full count in traditionally hard-to-count areas in Philadelphia are far from over.

Though COVID-19 has significantly hindered the outdoor outreach efforts planned across the city, the African & Caribbean subcommittee of the Philly Counts 2020 is still active supporting several community organizations equally committed to taking the message to their communities.

However, the bulk of the city-wide drive which began a few months ago with town hall meetings, promotional T-shirts, publication of flyers and newsletters to inform and educate the populace about the census have now shifted online.

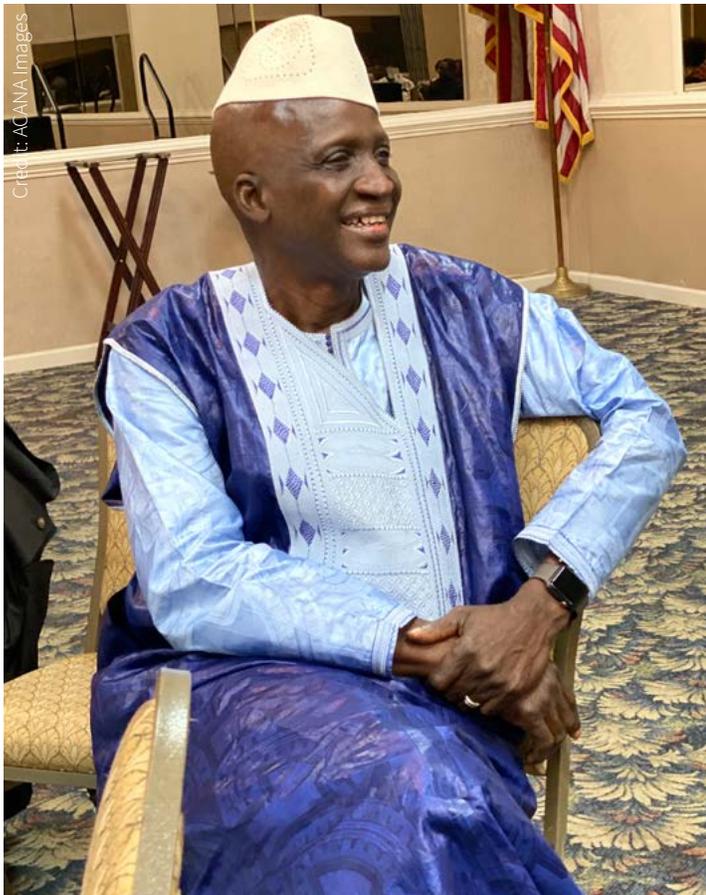
In southwest Philadelphia where the African & Caribbean

Speaking to ACANA Philly Southwest View, chairman of the African & Caribbean subcommittee, Mr. Voffee Jabateh commended the City government administration, Philly Counts 2020 Action Aid and the various African and Caribbean community organizations who worked and are still working tirelessly despite the ongoing pandemic, to ensure Philadelphia records a full count.

“It is especially important to acknowledge and thank everyone for all they’ve done and are still doing,” Jabateh said. “Nobody expected the pandemic, but it happened, and



Credit: USA Media



Credit: ACANA Images

Voffee Jabateh

an subcommittee of the Philly Counts 2020 is still pushing its mobilization efforts among grassroot organizations in the community, many of the organizations now rely on telephone calls, texts, WhatsApp groups and other social media tools to disseminate pertinent information about the census to their respective communities.

Several organizations have also started participating in the Weekly Census Update calls organized by Philly Counts 2020 to give updates about Philly Counts operations and planning, 2020 Census operations and self-response rate changes, as well as share ways partners can stay engaged with Philly Counts.

we’ve all had to keep working around it to get the message across without endangering anyone’s life.”

He said though many of the initial plans and strategies, especially those that would have involved large gathering of people, may no longer be feasible due to the social distancing regulations, it was gratifying that the African and Caribbean community was able to use many of its grants and resources effectively before the lockdown.

He said he was delighted that prior to the lockdown, many cultural and faith-based organizations in the community were able to spread the census awareness message to

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HOO RAY!

ACANA Turns 20!

By Opral Freeman

The African Cultural Alliance of North America recently celebrated its 20th anniversary with fanfare in Philadelphia. The event featured dance, music, dinner and presentation of awards to distinguished personalities in the city.

Dignitaries at the event included Congresswoman Jannie Blackwell; Councilman Kenyatta Johnson; Mr. Stanley Straughter; Mr. Jimi Owotomo, CPA; Ms. Youma Ba; Rev. Damone B. Jones Sr.; Mr. Robert Dickerson and Mrs. Wanda Dickerson.



Credit: ACANA Images

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Outlaw said her vision for the Philadelphia Police Department was to continue to be a leader in national best practices while raising the bar on police professionalism and accountability to the people.

“As the nation’s fourth largest police department, it is crucial that we are introspective and strategic,” she said, adding that, “the Police Department will stay the course with strategies that are working, and move away from those that do not, while we strengthen our partnerships with you, critical stakeholders in this public safety mission.”

She assured Philadelphians of her readiness and commitment to the job.

“I want you to know that I am committed to three primary goals: crime prevention and reduction; community engagement and inclusion; and organizational excellence,” she said.

Completing the trio of African American women steering the ship of key offices in Philadelphia towards excellence this year is Register of Wills Tracey L. Gordon, whose election uprooted former incumbent Ron Donatucci after serving in the capacity for 40 years.

Gordon’s election is a major milestone on two levels: She is the first woman, and first African American Register of Wills in Philadelphia.

In an interview with KYW’s Pat Loeb, Gordon said one of her new initiatives would be to preserve “records the office has amassed over hundreds of years, including some more recent treasures such as Princess Grace’s will and Frank Sinatra’s marriage license.”

“We have to protect these documents and we have to preserve these documents,” she told KYW.

Philly Counts Continued from page 3

members and people in their neighborhood.

“We realized it is very important for us to get a full count especially in hard-to-count communities such as ours, so we did what we could and remain committed to assisting the city to achieve full count in our communities.”

Jabateh said the cultural and faith-based organizations in the community took the message to the people in a language they understood, while being mindful and respectful of the people’s cultural background.

“We allayed fears, dispelled myths and encouraged the people to trust the system,” he said.

“In our community, it is very important to stress the confidentiality of information provided to the Census Bureau. The people in our community, majority of whom are immigrants, needed to know that participating in the census exercise will not have any adverse effect on their socio-economic or immigration status. COVID-19 notwithstanding, I think we did a pretty good job of passing that message across,” Jabateh said.



Credit: ACANA Images

USCIS Officers discuss new law benefiting some Liberian Nationals



Credit: Donna Burton

Early this year, the ACANA Legal Department together with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Community Engagement hosted a workshop on the recently announced Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (LRIF). The new law provides

a pathway to citizenship for qualifying Liberian nationals. Officers answered questions and concerns on the new law in this free forum which was open to the public. For more information on the LRIF, please call 215-729-8225 extension 0, or email acanaphila@gmail.com

Work Ready Program

Looking to acquire much needed skills to get the job you want? Visit the ACANA work-ready program. Programs include basic computer training, resume development and job search techniques and more. For more information, please call 215-729-8225 extension 0, or email acanaphila@gmail.com

Free Mammograms for Immigrant Women

The Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN) is working on a breast health awareness project to educate and engage women over 40 in Philadelphia about their right to free mammography services. As this program seeks to serve uninsured and underinsured women from the immigrant community, ACANA invites immigrant women over the age of 40 years who are underinsured or uninsured to take advantage of this program. Free breast health screening services will be provided through Jefferson Hospital in Center Philadelphia. To register or to learn more, please call 215-729-8225 extension 0 or email amansalay@acanaus.org.

Woodland Avenue Business Association elects new leaders

ACANA's Community Development Department along with business owners, stakeholders and community residents recently elected Woodland Avenue Business Association leadership (WABA). The election was held at the 12th District Police Station. Winners of the election include established business owners: Mr. Musa Barry – President; Ms. Mamie Kamara – Vice President; Mr. Musa Doumbia – Secretary; and Ms. Jeannet Mulbah – Treasurer. The occasion was graced by the presence of Congressman Dwight E. Evans, representing Pennsylvania's 3rd congressional district. Election supporters included the Women's Opportunity Resource Center (WORC) and SCORE Mentors who supported these businesses with access to business assistance, mentorship and other free resources.

Keep Kids Safe!

We can all play a role in preventing abuse and neglect of children and youth in our communities. During COVID-19, our attention to this issue is more important than ever as schools and childcare centers are closed and children are at home, often without outside supervision. Especially during this time, we need to work together to help keep children safe and healthy.

See page 7 for how to report suspected abuse or neglect.

We can all help keep kids safe.

#childabuseprevention



Office of Children and Families
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
Department of Human Services

Get Philly City ID

The PHL City ID provides a secure and affordable photo identification card for anyone living in Philadelphia, age 13 and older.

The card helps create a more welcoming Philadelphia that embraces everyone who lives here. It is especially beneficial for those who have a hard time obtaining other forms of identification because of cost or other barriers.

The PHL City ID displays the cardholder's name, address, date of birth, and self-identified gender. It assigns a unique identification number to each Philadelphian and displays issue and expiration dates on the card.

Each cardholder may include emergency contact information or medical condi-



tions for safety purposes, space permitting.

CARD BENEFITS

Residents can use the PHL City ID:

- As identification within Philadelphia.
- To sign in to schools and City buildings.
- To access recreation centers.
- To interact with a law enforcement official.
- For other situations where they need identification.
- The card does not authorize anyone to drive, travel, or enter federal buildings.

Source: City of Philadelphia

Reporting suspected abuse or neglect

For youth

Social distancing does not mean you are alone. Children or youth who are being harmed or feel unsafe can call **215-683-6100** to speak with a caring adult who will listen and help. Abuse is never okay, but it is okay to tell.

For adults

Friends, teachers, neighbors, family, and even passersby — if you see something, say something. You may not be sure if it's abuse or not, and that's okay. If you are worried about the safety of a child or youth, please call **1-800-932-0313** or **215-683-6100** to make a confidential report. Trained staff are available to take reports and investigate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For mandated reporters

Even while many schools are using digital-learning platforms, mandated reporters (including teachers, childcare and school staff) are still required to report suspected abuse. Mandated reporters should call the State Childline at **1-800-932-0313** to make a confidential report.

Source: DHS, City of Philadelphia

Become a COVID-19 Community Response Captain in just 60 minutes!

Do you know you can become a City of Philadelphia COVID-19 Community Response Captain: a trusted messenger in your Philly community, equipped with the information and resources to help your loved ones, neighbors, and friends stay healthy and safe during the pandemic?

Yes, you can! And in record time too.

The role of a COVID-19 Community Response Captain is to:

- Check-in on your loved ones and neighbors to make sure they have what they need

- Encourage your peers to follow CDC guidelines
- Provide informational support and help peers find services
- Provide support to non-English speakers

Trainings are held biweekly. So far, more than 2,000 Community Response Captains have been trained!

Join the movement-together, we can ensure every Philly resident has what they need during the COVID-19 crisis.



Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW: If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have it, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

- **Stay home:** People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to recover at home. Do not leave, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Stay in touch with your doctor.** Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you feel worse or you think it is an emergency.
- **Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home, this is known as home isolation

- **Stay away from others:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific “sick room” and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- **Limit contact with pets & animals:** You should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people.
 - Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people with the virus limit contact with animals until more information is known.
 - When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick with COVID-19. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them. See COVID-19 and Animals for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

- **Call ahead:** If you have a medical appointment, call your doctor’s office or emergency department, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.

Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people and before you enter a healthcare provider’s office.
- **If you are caring for others:** If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live in the home should stay in a different room. When caregivers enter the room of the sick person, they should wear a facemask. Visitors, other than caregivers, are not recommended.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

- **Cover:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.
- **Wash hands:** Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean your hands often

- **Wash hands:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose,

coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- **Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water:** Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching:** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items

- **Do not share:** Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- **Wash thoroughly after use:** After using these items, wash them thoroughly with soap and water or put in the dishwasher.

Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday

Clean high-touch surfaces in your isolation area (“sick room” and bathroom) every day; let a caregiver clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in other areas of the home.

- **Clean and disinfect:** Routinely clean high-touch surfaces in your “sick room” and bathroom. Let someone else clean and disinfect surfaces in common areas, but not your bedroom and bathroom.
 - If a caregiver or other person needs to clean and disinfect a sick person’s bedroom or bathroom, they should do so on an as-needed basis. The caregiver/other person should wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom.
- High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.
- **Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.**
- **House hold cleaners and disinfectants:** Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use a household disinfectant.
 - Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for several minutes to ensure germs are killed. Many also recommend precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
 - Most EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A full list of disinfectants can be found here [external icon](#).

Monitor your symptoms

- **Seek medical attention, but call first:** Seek medical care right away if your illness is worsening (for example, if you have difficulty breathing).
 - **Call your doctor before going in:** Before going to the doctor’s office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them your symptoms. They will tell you what to do.
- **Wear a facemask:** If possible, put on a facemask before you enter the building. If you can’t put on a facemask, try to keep a safe distance from other

people (at least 6 feet away). This will help protect the people in the office or waitingroom.

- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department:** Your local health authorities will give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately**.

Emergency warning signs include*:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

Call 911 if you have a medical emergency: If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before medical help arrives.

How to discontinue home isolation

- People with COVID-19 who have stayed home (**home isolated**) can stop home isolation under the following conditions:
 - **If you will not have a test** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
 - ♦ You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
 - AND
 - ♦ other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)
 - AND
 - ♦ at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared
 - **If you will be tested** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
 - ♦ You no longer have a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
 - AND
 - ♦ other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)
 - AND
 - ♦ you received two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines.

In all cases, follow the guidance of your healthcare provider and local health department.

The decision to stop home isolation should be made in consultation with your healthcare provider and state and local health departments. Local decisions depend on local circumstances.

More information is available [here](#).

Additional information for healthcare providers: [Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Persons Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#).

cdc.gov/COVID19