

**USM Public Service Course
COVID-19: What You Need to Know
Course Syllabus**

Purpose:

This course will help you understand the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides a historical perspective on pandemic events, an introduction to the coronavirus and its control, and an overview of how pandemic events impact society. We also provide you with the information you need to navigate the current COVID-19 pandemic and stay healthy, both physically and mentally.

Faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi whose expertise is directly relevant to our current situation are the instructors of this course. It is composed of six unique modules containing video resources to achieve the outcomes listed below. Each module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. You may complete each module at your own pace and in any order you choose.

Course Objectives:

Module 1:

- Participants will understand what a pandemic is and learn about some of the major pandemics in world history.
- Participants will know how diseases spread to cause a pandemic.

Module 2:

- Participants will understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the U.S. and world economies.
- Participants will recognize how households, businesses, and other institutions have changed to respond to the pandemic.

Module 3:

- Participants will understand the basic features of viruses.
- Participants will value the basic principles of herd immunity.
- Participants will appreciate the importance of fundamental hygiene and social distancing protocols in preventing the spread of viruses.

Module 4:

- Participants will learn how COVID-19 spreads.
- Participants will understand current testing and treatment methods.
- Participants will comprehend the impact of the pandemic on the healthcare system.

Module 5:

- Participants will be aware of the history of vaccines.
- Participants will understand historical and modern vaccine technologies.
- Participants will know how vaccines work with the immune system.

Module 6:

- Participants will appreciate the impacts of the pandemic on emotional and physical well-being.
- Participants will understand how to improve one's physical, emotional, and nutritional health during the pandemic.

Assessment:

Each module contains a brief multiple-choice quiz that you may choose to complete after viewing the video content. These assessments will help you measure your understanding of the concepts presented. You may retake the quizzes as many times as needed. Successful completion of all six quizzes will result in earning a notification of completion for your records.