

Preparing for Potential Infection in West Virginia Communities

Since February 2020, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health has been following an increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. The Bureau for Public Health monitors Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates, hospital admissions, and other data to determine the potential risk to citizens in West Virginia from the virus.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION

- Occurs via small droplets from the nose or mouth of the infected person when they cough, sneeze, or exhale.
- Maintain 2 meter (6 ft) distance between yourself and anyone coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you feel sick. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

PREVENTION

- Isolating sick and diagnosed individuals.
- Encourage proper handwashing.
- Cleaning and sanitizing surfaces.
- Provide education about COVID-19.
- Discourage sharing food, drinks, etc.

CDC GUIDANCE FOR NON-HEALTHCARE FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are normally used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees before each use.
- The American Chemistry Council Center for Biocide Chemistries has developed a list of cleaning products that are expected to be effective against the virus that causes COVID-19.
<https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home.
- Separate sick employees from other employees if they become sick during the day and send them home immediately.
- Emphasize staying home when sick as well as respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all employees.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning.
- Advise employees before traveling to:
 - * Check CDC's Traveler's Health Notices.
 - * Check for symptoms of acute respiratory illness.
 - * Notify their supervisor if they become sick while traveling.
 - * If outside the United States, follow company's policy for obtaining medical care, or contact a healthcare provider or overseas medical assistance to help find an appropriate healthcare provider in that country.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, employers should inform other employees of the possible exposure, but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For additional information on COVID-19 please visit our webpage at: www.coronavirus.wv.gov

Questions and concerns can also be directed to the 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline at 1-800-887-4304