

Facts and Resources About the Coronavirus Disease

U.S. health officials are encouraging the American public to prepare for potential disruption to daily lives due to the coronavirus.

Recommendations to Minimize Spread of Respiratory Illnesses

Public Health recommends that school districts, colleges/universities, city/county government authorities and businesses increase education on respiratory hygiene. As with other respiratory illnesses, there are steps that everyone can take daily to reduce the risk of getting sick or infecting others with circulating viruses.

- Staff and students who are ill should remain home; persons who have been ill should be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
- Separate students and staff who get sick at school from others until they can go home.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Help young children do the same.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Facemasks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and people who are ill.
- Get a flu shot – it's not too late to be protected against influenza. In addition, it is recommended that schools take these additional preventive measures:
- Provide adequate supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

Special processes beyond routine cleaning is not necessary nor recommended to slow the spread of respiratory illness. Schools should follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting with an EPA-registered product. Typically, this means daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as bathrooms, water coolers, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.

As a reminder, entities can secure the necessary EMS, first aid and custodial cleaning products through the BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative contracts. To see what contracts are available to you, visit www.buyboard.com.

Resources

Below are current resources and examples regarding the coronavirus:

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>
 - [What You Need to Know](#)
 - [What to do If You are Sick?](#)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) - <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>
- World Health Organization - <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>
- State and Territorial Health Departments: <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html>

Sample Guidance from County and State Health Agencies

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health, County) <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State) <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Washington State Department of Health (WSDH, State) <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/ClassroomCleaning>
- New York State Department of Health (NYSDH, State) <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
 - [Webinar](#) – Update on 2019 Novel Coronavirus for Schools February 7, 2020
 - [PDF of Presentation](#)