

NEWS RELEASE

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March 2, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DuPage County Health Department's Continued Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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DUPAGE COUNTY—The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) wants residents to know preventive steps are being taken at the local, state and federal levels to limit the spread of novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19. DCHD is closely monitoring the fast-changing outbreak of COVID-19 and is in regular communication with and following guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). DCHD Communicable Disease and Epidemiology staff routinely monitor and investigate disease transmission and response and continues to do so with this new virus.

“In addition, we are evaluating and updating our preparedness, response and communications plans, and have been working with local first responders, hospitals, schools, businesses and community partners to ensure they are prepared.” said Karen Ayala, Health Department Executive Director.

Even with the identification of two new presumptive COVID-19 cases in suburban Cook County, the number of confirmed cases in the United States remains low, with a total of 22 (13 travel-related and 9 person-to-person cases). However, this week, several instances of infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 occurred in people with no travel history and no known source of exposure.

CDC officials have stated more cases may be identified in the U.S., and it is also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur. Because vaccines and drug treatments are not yet available, the best measures to take right now are known as nonpharmaceutical interventions, or NPIs. These are public health actions that are proven to slow the spread of emerging respiratory diseases like COVID-19. NPIs are everyday preventive measures that individuals and families should follow, including:

- **Voluntary Home Isolation:** Stay home when you are sick with fever and respiratory disease (runny nose, sneezing, chest congestion, coughing or shortness of breath) symptoms. Employees must be fever free (without the use of fever reducing medicine) for at least 24 hours before returning to work. At the present time, these symptoms are more likely due to influenza or other respiratory viruses than to COVID-19-related virus. Seek medical attention as needed.

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- **Respiratory Etiquette:** Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash can.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Wash 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.
- **If soap and water are not readily available,** use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60 percent to 95 percent alcohol.
- **Environmental Health Action:** Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.

For more COVID-19 information, including fact sheets and links to resources from IDPH and CDC, visit DCHD's [**Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Information**](#) page, which is updated as information is available from local, state and federal partners.

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, feel free to call the Illinois Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Hotline **1 (800) 889-3931** or, send an email to: [**DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV**](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV), anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you plan to travel, visit CDC's [**Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel**](#) page for the latest information.

Visit [**Ready.gov/pandemic**](#) to learn how to stay safe and know what to before and during a health-related emergency, such as a pandemic. You will also find information on keeping your pets and animals safe during emergencies at [**Ready.gov/pets**](#).

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