

February 28, 2020

To: Public Health Partners

Subject: Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Update

The international outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to create daily headlines. Recent developments with the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) indicate that the disease is now reaching a point of a global outbreak. While we have yet to identify a case in Minnesota, developments around the world show that we must expect the outbreak to reach our state. Now is the time to prepare at all levels: individuals, families, organizations and communities.

The risk to the general public and Minnesotans remains low and there is no current evidence to suggest COVID-19 is widely circulating in the U.S. However, this could change given new information about recent outbreaks in South Korea, Iran and Italy. Please note, that as of February 27, 2020, there are no cases in Minnesota.

Minnesota has a strong and robust public health system in place that includes hospitals, clinics and local public health. Freeborn County Public Health works with federal, state and local health agencies and our medical partners to quickly and effectively respond to any infectious disease that may be identified in our area. We continuously evaluate and modify plans designed to stop sustained transmission of communicable diseases.

As this situation continues to unfold, it is important that everyone follow standard prevention practices to reduce the spread of contagious diseases, including influenza and COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve – not in your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home from school, work and activities if you are ill
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

There may be challenging times ahead, but if we all work together and everyone does their part, we can significantly reduce the negative impacts and make it through the COVID-19 outbreak. For the most current information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the website www.ready.gov and to use the preparedness information found here to ready your family and your home for response. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 507-377-5100.



Sue Yost
Director/CHS Administrator
Freeborn County Public Health