MESSAGE MAP

Date: Updated 2/5/2020, 12:46 PM

Event: 2019-nCov (Coronavirus)

General Context: See PHMDC website

Key Messages	Supporting Messages
There is one person in Dane County who has coronavirus.	• The person with coronavirus went directly from the airport to the hospital and has been isolating at home ever since then. • Public Health Madison & Dane County is working closely with state and local healthcare partners to monitor the situation. • The chances of getting sick from coronavirus in Dane County remain low at this time. • Changing your plans or habits is not necessary at this time.

We have plans in place to help keep people safe.	• We plan, train, and practice for novel viruses like this coronavirus. They are prepared.
	• Our responsibilities include:
	  o Monitoring travelers who have been to China and returned to Dane County after February 2 for symptoms.
	  o Ensuring isolation of any patients who are waiting for test results.
	  o Supplying patients with items they need to stay home for an extended period of time.
	  o Following-up with anyone who has been in close contact with a person who has coronavirus and instructing them what to do to prevent the spread of the virus.

This public health concern will not be solved with fear and discrimination. We will fight it with compassion and science.	• You cannot tell if someone has a risk of spreading coronavirus by what they look like. • Do not exclude people from activities based on their race, country of origin, or recent travel. If someone is supposed to be isolated, public health staff will make those arrangements with them.
While risk of coronavirus is low in Dane County, risk of flu is high.	• CDC estimates that between October 1 and January 25, there have been over 19 million flu illnesses and over 10,000 deaths. • There are steps everyone can take to stay healthy during cold and flu season. These include getting a flu vaccine, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, staying home when sick, and coughing or sneezing into a tissue.

What Employers Need to Know About Coronavirus

CAN MY EMPLOYEE COME TO WORK?

I have staff who recently visited China. Can they come to work?

People who have visited China and were in the United States before February 2, 2020 can go to work as they normally would. Any employee—including those who did not leave the country—should stay home if they are sick.

If you have staff returning from China after February 2, 2020, we will already be receiving their contact information (see right) and will advise them on whether they can go to work or not.

Do I need to contact public health if I have an employee returning from China?

No. All current travelers from China are being routed through certain airports. They are being screened for symptoms at these airports.

If they have symptoms and were in certain parts of China, they will not be allowed to travel further. Otherwise they will travel to their final destination. Our health department will receive contact information of people staying in Dane County and will follow-up with them to monitor symptoms and ensure they are staying home if necessary.

KEEPING EMPLOYEES HEALTHY DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON

Keep tissues and hand sanitizer in easy to access places. Encourage employees to keep these items at their desk too.

Post reminders about staying healthy. CDC has lots of resources: bit.ly/cdcfluresources.

Create a Business Continuity Plan. This plan helps businesses map out how they can provide essential services if a number of employees are out sick or otherwise unavailable.

Work with your cleaning staff to make sure workspaces are cleaned and disinfected correctly. The CDC has basic information on cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing: bit.ly/cleaningworkspaces.

Consider longer term policies. Offering paid sick leave, allowing staff to work from home, and creating mandatory flu vaccination policies can help keep employees healthy.

MESSAGES TO SHARE WITH EMPLOYEES ABOUT STAYING HEALTHY

Risk of coronavirus in the US is low. Visit cdc.gov/coronavirus for the most up-to-date information.

Stay home when you're sick.

Get your flu shot.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if no soap and water are available.

Avoid assumptions or stereotypes about who you think might be sick.

Public Health
MADISON & DANE COUNTY
Healthy people. Healthy places.