

3/3/2020

*\* NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

## **COVID -19 Prevention for the Long- term Care Setting Webinar, March 5, 2020**

### **Requested Action Regarding COVID-19**

- 1) Register and attend the COVID-19 Prevention for the Long- term Care Setting Webinar, March 5, 2020 at 3:00 PM PST. Please register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1371383875225014795> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The objectives of the webinar include:

1. Describing the clinical presentation and epidemiology for COVID-19
  2. Summarizing the role of the public health response
  3. Describing the infection prevention and control procedures for long-term care
  4. Providing healthcare resources for COVID-19
- 2) See the newest guidance the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention published this weekend. You can find the information at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/LongTermCareFacilities> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

### **Background:**

On January 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Washington State Department of Health announced the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Washington State. This is a rapidly evolving situation. As of March 3<sup>rd</sup> Washington State had 27 individuals confirmed as positive and 9 deaths from COVID-19 in King and Snohomish Counties with 231 individuals under public health supervision. Individuals under public health supervision include those at risk of having been exposed to novel coronavirus who are monitoring their health under the supervision of public health officials, close contacts of laboratory confirmed cases, and individuals who have returned from travel to affected international locations in the past 14 days and are included in federal quarantine guidance. We expect the numbers to rise with the COVID-19 testing now available through the WA St Department of Health Lab see:

[https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/PHL\\_Testing.pdf](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/PHL_Testing.pdf). Specimens must be approved by both the Local and State Health Departments prior to submission.

The University of Washington (U of W) began offering testing for COVID-19 through their Virology Lab <https://testguide.labmed.uw.edu/public/view/NCVQLT> on March 2nd. Contact them directly through their website or at (206) 520-4600 or 1 (800) 713-5198 to inquire about the testing they offer. It may be an option for you for your patients who do not meet current Department of Health testing criteria. The test the U of W is performing provides a preliminary result that will go through a required confirmation by the WA St Public Health Lab. Work continues at the federal level to expedite the availability of commercial testing resources.

The risk posed by a virus outbreak depends on factors including how well it spreads person to person, severity of the illness it causes, and the medical or other measures we have to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine or treatment medications). The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is very high, both to the United States and globally.



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**What's the current risk?**

- The risk of exposure is increasing for people who live in communities in Washington state with reported spread of COVID-19.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Those who have had close contact with persons with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> here community spread is occurring are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Our knowledge of COVID-19 is still rapidly evolving. The risk assessment will be updated as needed

**Resources**

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services:

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

DOH – COVID-19 <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

DOH – Long-term Care Guidance

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/LongTermCareFacilities>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Long-term Care Strategies

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

**THANK YOU FOR REPORTING**

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting <b>non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)</b>	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
<b>Day time immediately reportable conditions</b> – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
<b>After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency</b>	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is <b>immediately notifiable</b>	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>