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** 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.*

New Coronavirus (COVID-19) Webinar February 25, 2020 – 3 – 4 PM, for School District Leaders and Health Services Supervisors, Co-sponsored by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Washington State Department of Health

Requested Action Regarding COVID-19 Webinar

- Attend a webinar about 2019 New Coronavirus (COVID19), on **Tuesday, February 25th** from **3:00-4:00 PM** co-hosted by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Washington State Department of Health.

The webinar will:

- Provide latest information about this evolving situation
- Provide information about the role schools may play in Washington's preparation, response, and containment plans for COVID-19
- Answer questions from attendees.

Webinar Details

Intended Audience: School district administrators and district health services supervisors

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 25, 3-4 pm (PST)

Join: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/552919909>

You can also dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

- United States (Toll Free): 1-877-309-2073

- One-touch: <tel:+18773092073,,552919909#>

- United States: +1 (646) 749-3129

- One-touch: <tel:+16467493129,,552919909#>

Access Code: 552-919-909

Join from a video-conferencing room or system:

- Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or inroomlink.goto.com

- Meeting ID: 552 919 909

- Or dial directly: [552919909@67.217.95.2](tel:552919909@67.217.95.2) or 67.217.95.2##552919909



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Background

China is experiencing an expanding outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This virus emerged in Hubei Province, China in December 2019. The virus is spreading from person-to-person, and cases are confirmed in the United States and a number of other countries

Currently, the immediate risk to the general public in Washington and the United States is considered to be low. There is no evidence that COVID-19 is spreading in Washington at this time.

As new information emerges, please remind your community that the risk of novel coronavirus is not at all connected with race, ethnicity, or nationality. Stigma will not help to fight the illness see <https://medium.com/wadepthealth/it-takes-all-of-us-to-reduce-stigma-during-disease-outbreaks-310db60dce29>. Sharing accurate information during a time of heightened concern is one of the best things we can do to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that usually cause mild respiratory illnesses such as the common cold. Some coronaviruses have caused more severe illness, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that was not identified in humans before December 2019.

What are common symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It takes 2 to 14 days after a person gets the virus in their body to become ill. Novel coronavirus is new, and we are learning more each day about symptoms it causes how long it takes for people to become sick.

How does the virus spread?

Most often, it is spread from person-to-person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how flu and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It's currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. Often, with most respiratory viruses, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

Who should seek medical evaluation for COVID-19?

Students, staff, and volunteers who are:

- Ill with a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing AND have traveled from China in the last 14 days.
- Ill with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing AND have been identified by Public Health as a recent close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case or had recent close contact with someone who is being evaluated for COVID-19 infection.

What should I do if I suspect a student, staff member, or volunteer is at risk for COVID-19?

If a student, staff member, or volunteer meets the above criteria, it is important to place them in a private room away from others and ask them to wear a face mask. Immediately notify your local health department see <https://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions>. They will provide you with guidance. Our direct contact information is listed at the end of this document.

Should children returning from China stay home from school for 14 days?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all travelers from China (including school students, staff and volunteers) arriving in the United States AFTER February 2, 2020 at 2 p.m. stay at home, away from others, and monitor their health for 14 days. This measure was put in place because of the increasing number of cases of COVID-19 in China.

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There is no recommendation for people without symptoms arriving before this time to restrict their activities. All travelers from China arriving BEFORE February 2, 2020 at 2 p.m. can continue to attend school and should take the following steps:

- Watch for any changes in their health for 14 days after leaving China.
- If they develop a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing during this 14-day period, avoid contact with others. They should call their doctor or healthcare provider to tell them about their symptoms and recent travel.

What can I do to prevent COVID-19 infections in my school?

Schools do not need to take any special precautions beyond what is normally recommended to prevent the spread of viruses in schools. You can help students and staff reduce their risk for getting and spreading viral respiratory infections, including the flu and the common cold, by encouraging them to take simple steps which will also prevent COVID-19. These include:

- **Staying home when they are sick.**
- **Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**, especially after going to the bathroom before eating, and after they blow their nose. Help young children do the same. If hands are visibly dirty, use soap and water to clean hands
- If soap and water are not readily available, **using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.**
- Advising persons to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Following the school's routine cleaning and disinfection program to **clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.**
- **Covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the issue in the trash and clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.**
- **Urging students and staff to get a flu shot** – it's not too late to be protected against influenza.
- **Providing adequate supplies for good hygiene**, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer

As with any newly emerging infectious disease, knowledge evolves with time.

Early on, it is difficult to know the ways in which the disease spreads, how effectively it spreads from person-to-person, and how severe the infection is. We will continue to update our website as more information becomes available.

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

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

Special processes beyond routine cleaning are not necessary nor recommended to slow the spread of respiratory illness. Schools should follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered product with a disinfectant claim for human coronaviruses. 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.

Where can I turn for more information?

DOH Novel Coronavirus Outbreak 2020-<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China -<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC Guidance for Travelers - <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/china>

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION DIVISION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470



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DOH Classroom Cleaning - Tips for Teachers -

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/ClassroomCleaning>

DOH Handwashing to Prevent Illness at School -

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/handwashing>

Infectious Disease Control Guide for School Staff, OSPI, 2014 (PDF) -

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/healthservices/pubdocs/infectiousdiseasecontrolguide.pdf>

Washington State Department of Health novel coronavirus call center: 1-800-525-0127 and press #

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING - WE COULD NOT DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – 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
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

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