

HAWDC Member Notice:
Department of Health Coronavirus Update



Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Dear HAWDC Member:

As you aware, the World Health Organization recently declared a global health emergency regarding the coronavirus outbreak. Coronavirus is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. HAWDC has been in contact with the District's Department of Health ("DOH") regarding information about the virus and what can be done to help prevent its spread. The below information is what DOH has shared with us.

This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. For confirmed infections, reported illnesses have ranged from people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The US Center for Disease Control ("CDC") believes at this time that symptoms of coronavirus may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Most often, it is spread from person-to-person, among close contacts (about 6 feet). Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza 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 coronavirus by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly

their eyes.

The CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your 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 at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

If any of your guests or team members feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have traveled to China or were in close contact with someone with coronavirus in the 14 days before they began to feel sick, seek medical care. Before going to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about their recent travel and symptoms.

For additional information about the virus, and what can be done to help prevent the spread, click [here](#).

Regards,
Lisa

Lisa Abrams
Vice President of Government Affairs
Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.
1225 New York Avenue, NW Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-4448 Direct
(202) 289-8869 Fax
