



Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water

The [Department of Health](#) wants to keep you as informed as possible about continuing developments surrounding COVID-19 as well as guidance and resources you can share with employees, clients, or customers. Please feel free to forward this message or let me know at Elizabeth.Hyde@doh.wa.gov if you or someone else would like to be added to our email list for water systems and operators

For you as a drinking water professional, we have compiled a list of useful resources on COVID-19 at the top of our main [Drinking Water webpage](#).

To be clear, there is no current evidence that coronaviruses are present in surface or ground water sources or transmitted through contaminated drinking water. The COVID-19 virus has a fragile outer membrane, which typically makes it less stable in the environment and more susceptible to oxidants, like chlorine.

The information below is more general information from the [Department of Health](#).

News! We opened a much expanded call center today so we can answer more of your questions quicker! Our call center will be available from 6am-10pm 7 days a week at 1-800-525-0127.

Nine General Ways To Protect Your Health

1. **Wash your hands.** Frequently. And don't touch your face. Don't panic if you are struggling to find hand sanitizer in the stores. Soap and water will do.
2. **Cover your cough.** There are actual disgusting studies on this! If you don't cover your cough or sneeze, the droplets can travel up to six feet!
3. **Stay more than 6 feet away from each other.** No hugs, no touching. Maybe greet your friends with a peace sign or, logically, with the Live Long and Prosper hand gesture.
4. **Disinfect hard surfaces like tables, doorknobs, phones.** Coronaviruses like COVID-19 can live on hard surfaces for hours to days. Disinfect them before you touch them again and have to wash your hands again. Then wash your hands again anyway.
5. **Stay home if you are sick!** If you have a fever and cough, stay home until your fever has been gone for 72 hours. Staying home while sick protects our friends and loved ones, some of whom may be at high risk of severe illness.
6. **Public health may ask you to limit your travel—** maybe because of your specific exposure or illness, or maybe as part of a request to an entire community. Are you prepared to stay home for 14 days? Do you have enough food to last? Books? Board games? List of interesting, yet non-divisive topics to discuss with your spouse or housemates?
7. **Consider rescheduling or canceling large community events.** If you are planning on holding a large event that involves people who may be at high risk of severe illness, and it is not an essential part of your business, it is reasonable to consider cancelling or rescheduling this event.
8. **Follow [international travel advice from CDC](#).** At this point, this advice means delaying trips to China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. Travel restrictions are in place for Japan and Hong Kong too.
9. **Practice compassion.** Avoid jumping to conclusions about people who may cough or sneeze at work. It is cold and flu season and people have allergies. Don't grill your friends about their health conditions; instead, show them your support by offering them water or a tissue.

Numbers. [The Department of Health website](#) is updated daily with the number of people in Washington confirmed to be positive and the number of people who have died of this disease. As of 11 a.m. on Friday 3/6/20, 79 people in Washington have tested positive for COVID-19, and 11 have died of the disease. This is an increase of 9 people over yesterday.

We are very likely to see more people with COVID-19 identified in the coming days. For additional updates, see our [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Outbreak webpage](#).