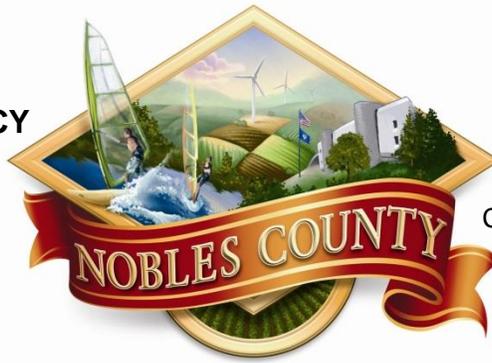


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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

March 11, 2020

<p>What is the Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19)?</p>	<p>Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. Centers for Disease Control Fact Sheet: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf</p>
<p>What are the Minnesota Department of Health’s (MDH) current interventions?</p>	<p>MDH has a strong disease surveillance system in place that includes partnerships with hospitals and clinic systems across the State. Finding cases quickly and responding to them effectively is key.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sending information to health care providers with recommendations for screening and testing 2. Updating providers and local public health agencies with new information through daily website updates, weekly phone calls, etc. 3. Monitoring travelers for symptoms 4. Plans prepared for responding to cases in Minnesota 5. Outreach to community organizations, area schools, etc. to provide information and answer questions 6. The MN Dept. of Health website www.health.state.mn.us and the Centers for Disease Control website CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 are the best places to get the most accurate information. 7. MDH has also set up a public hotline that is available to answer questions Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 1-651-201-3920
<p>What are the Nobles County Public Health current interventions?</p>	<p>Nobles County Public Health has emergency preparedness plans in place for situations such as this where people in our county may need self-isolation and/or quarantine measures. We are continually reviewing and revising our plans to ensure that we are prepared to respond and provide monitoring quickly, if needed.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Several calls weekly with MDH for updates, recommendations, and the most current information 2. Meetings/calls to collaborate with the county's health and medical providers (including county medical partners, emergency managers, law enforcement, and many others. 3. Providing updates and information to area providers (i.e. schools, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.) 4. Updating internal staff with most current information 5. Following and re-distributing recommendations from the MN Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control
<p>What is involved with monitoring and/or home isolation?</p>	<p>Currently MDH is providing monitoring of any person under investigation (PUI) in Minnesota. When an individual is considered a PUI or is confirmed to have the virus, he/she will be asked to self-isolate (stay home) until the risk of infecting others is low (typically 14 days). During this time period MDH or local public health will monitor he/she by phone calls and/or email and assure essential services for the person.</p> <p>CDC What to do if you are sick with coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf</p>
<p>What can you do?</p>	<p>Continue to practice every day preventative actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoiding close contacts with people who are sick 2. Staying home if you are sick, except to get medical care 3. Covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue 4. Washing your hands frequently with warm, soapy water 5. Using alcohol based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when handwashing is not available. <p>Plan ahead as much as possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a household plan of action 2. Plan ways to care for family members who might be at greater risk for serious complications 3. Create an emergency contact list 4. Be prepared if your child's school or childcare facility is temporarily dismissed 5. Learn about your employer's emergency operation plans <p>CDC Get your household ready for coronavirus disease 2019</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html</p>

