



# Preparation, Not Panic

On March 7, Vermont **reported its first case** of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. The disease is not currently widespread throughout the state. At this time, preparation continues to be the recommended priority for our state's business community.

Governor Scott has ensured that testing for COVID-19 is available at no cost to anyone who meets the medical requirements for testing.

This page will be updated with new and relevant information and resources as they become available. If you have information you would like to share with Vermont's business community regarding COVID-19, **please contact us**.

## About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The CDC offers information on how Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) spreads, symptoms, prevention and treatment, what to do if you are sick, and frequently asked questions, including printable fliers.

# Monitoring the Situation

## Situation Summary (CDC)

This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated information as it becomes available, in addition to updated guidance.

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel (CDC)

This page offers the current travel warning, alert and watches, as well as destinations with risk of community spread. Burlington International Airport has **stepped up its sanitation efforts** in response to the spread of Coronavirus.

# Plan and Prepare

## Pandemic Guidance

A brief outline of how to prepare before and respond during a pandemic by Ready.gov, official website of the Department of Homeland Security.

## Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

CDC recommended guidance for employers, including advice for developing a response plan and steps that all employers can implement now. Based on what is currently known

about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Feb 2020)

### **Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak: Interim guidance**

A guide outlining key planning considerations for organizers of mass gatherings in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, by the World Health Organization (WHO) (Feb 14, 2020)

### **Understanding the Coronavirus**

Webinar about the impact of coronavirus on the private sector and how companies should consider their response, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Jan 27, 2020)

### **Best Practice: Establish a Cross-Functional Team to Manage Preparation and Response**

Establishing a team to manage your assessment, preparation and response is an important best practice. Learn more about why and who that team should include.

### **Communicate with Employees (CDC)**

With Coronavirus dominating the news, now is a good time to communicate with your employees. The CDC provides this interim guidance to help prevent workplace exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, in non-healthcare settings. The guidance also provides planning considerations if there are more widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19. Let your employees know you are monitoring the situation and share best practices for **prevention and treatment**.

### **Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic (OSHA)**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed this pandemic influenza planning guidance based upon traditional infection control and industrial hygiene practices. **It is important to note that there is currently no pandemic; thus, this guidance is intended for planning purposes and is not specific to a particular viral strain.**

# **Business Continuity Planning**

### **Business Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist (HHS & CDC)**

Planning for pandemic influenza is critical. To assist you in your efforts, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed the following checklist for large businesses. It identifies important, specific activities large businesses can do now to prepare, many of which will also help you in other emergencies.

## **Pandemic Preparedness Planning For U.S. Businesses With Overseas Operations (CDC)**

The United States Government has created the following guide to help U.S. businesses with overseas operations prepare and implement pandemic business continuity. This is a list of suggestions and can serve as a starting point for developing a comprehensive plan. The checklist highlights actions applicable to businesses of all sizes, although each item does not necessarily apply to every overseas business.

## **Legal Guidance on Workplace Pandemic Planning (EEOC)**

This technical assistance document provides information about Titles I and V of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and pandemic planning in the workplace. It identifies established ADA principles that are relevant to questions frequently asked about workplace pandemic planning such as:

- How much information may an employer request from an employee who calls in sick, in order to protect the rest of its workforce when an influenza pandemic appears imminent?
- When may an ADA-covered employer take the body temperature of employees during a pandemic?
- Does the ADA allow employers to require employees to stay home if they have symptoms of the pandemic influenza virus?
- When employees return to work, does the ADA allow employers to require doctors' notes certifying their fitness for duty?

## **Getting Ahead of the Coronavirus Outbreak: A Checklist for Multinational Employers**

This is a suggested macro-checklist for multinational employers to help you prepare.

## **Sample Pandemic Threat Condition Levels**

This is a sample of pandemic threat condition levels that could be implemented at your business.

## **Sample Pandemic Preparation Questions**

This outlines questions to ask during an outbreak, questions to ask once an outbreak becomes a pandemic, and which actions your crisis management team should perform regularly afterward to stay prepared.

# **Additional Resources**

## **Vermont Department of Health Public Health Response to 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

The Health Department is closely monitoring the rapid developments in the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus, COVID-19.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and Updates from UVM Medical Center**

The UVM Health Network is working with the Vermont Department of Health and New York State Department of Health to coordinate preparedness efforts based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### **World Health Organization: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak**

Information and guidance from WHO regarding the current outbreak of coronavirus disease, including daily updates.

### **World Health Organization: Video Explainer**

Video from WHO explaining what's currently known about the virus.

### **National Association of Manufacturers: Coronavirus Resources**

The NAM is in contact with federal officials who are overseeing the response to the coronavirus and they are working to share additional available information.

### **U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Corporate Aid Tracker**

The business community is mobilizing its expertise, capabilities, and community resources to assist with the relief and containment efforts. Learn more.

### **American Chamber of Commerce in China: Flash Survey Results on COVID-19 Impact Revealed (2/27/20)**

On Feb. 27, the American Chamber of Commerce in China ("AmCham China") released the results of a flash survey that measures the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on its member companies.

### **Coronavirus Resource Page**

A resource page by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, including links to Resilience in a Box and Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Quick Guides.