



COVID-19: Guidance for Businesses

March 10, 2020

Marion County Health & Human Services is monitoring the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Current information suggests that person-to-person spread will continue to occur and more cases will be identified in the United States, including in Oregon. We are working closely with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other local public health authorities on response plans. Our goal is to reduce the impact of COVID-19 by collaborating with community partners to reduce transmission and respond as the situation unfolds.

Recommended strategies for employers:

- Emphasize personal protection in the workplace:
 - Encourage employees to cover coughs and sneezes with tissue, and wash hands often with soap and water.
 - Hand sanitizers should contain 60-95% alcohol and be available at work stations, counters, and in conference rooms.
- Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath) should stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4°F) for at least 24 hours.
- Consider permitting employees to stay home to care for a sick family member.
- Food service providers should follow established sanitation and food safety techniques like thorough handwashing and surface disinfection.

Perform routine environmental cleaning:

- Frequently clean all regularly touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas.
- No additional disinfection beyond regular cleaning is recommended at this time.
- Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down regularly by employees.

Prepare for possible increased numbers of employee absences:

- Individuals who are restricted from returning to work will receive a letter from Marion County Health and Human Services with the dates the restriction applies.
- Implement plans to continue your essential business functions in case you experience higher than usual absences.

For more information on how workplace settings can prepare for an infectious disease outbreak, see [CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#).

Resources

[Oregon Health Authority](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Marion County Health & Human Services](#)

For general questions about COVID-19 call 2-1-1.