



# NECA Fact Sheet

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### What is the Coronavirus?

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)-CoV-2 virus. The current mutation is a new strain of the SARS virus and no individual has any immunity prior to an exposure. The CDC has reported that testing has begun on a vaccine but for now, everyone should prepare and plan for possible impacts resulting from COVID-19. It has spread from China to many other countries around the world, including the United States.

With the recent emphasis on Novel-Coronavirus, COVID-19, exposures and ongoing employer obligations, NECA wants to remind employers of the OSHA and Department of Labor Requirements to protect with workers in the workplace from this and other work-place exposures. While there are many reported cases of COVID-19, nationally and internationally, it is important to review all facts concerning this virus and implement Universal Precautions to prevent this virus from spreading and affecting jobsites across the nation.

### What can Employers and Employees do in response?

Employers and workers should follow these general practices to help prevent exposure to coronavirus:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and running water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Employers of workers with potential occupational exposures to coronavirus should follow these practices:

- Assess the hazards to which workers may be exposed.
- Evaluate the risk of exposure.
- Select, implement, and ensure workers use controls to prevent exposure, including physical barriers to control the spread of the virus; social distancing; and appropriate personal protective equipment, hygiene, and cleaning supplies.

Employers should also review company policies on sick leave, family medical care leave and other federal regulations protecting employer and employee rights.

Workers should remember, if you are sick or show any signs of fever or other symptoms: Stay home, (except to seek medical care from a licensed health care provider), avoid public areas, public gatherings and public transportation. Remember to stay away from others in your family and also pets that could transmit viruses to others. Don't forget to clean and disinfect surfaces regularly including items you touch repeatedly and if possible, use disposal cups and glasses to minimize exposures.

By following the simple information found here and at OSHA, CDC and WHO websites, we can all do our part to prevent further transmission of this and all communicable viruses we are exposed to.

Please review the following links from OSHA, MSHA and WHO for additional, up-to-date information:

- [www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html)
- [www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html)
- [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html)



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