



March 10, 2020

Public Housing Agency of the City of Saint Paul

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and Resources

The Public Housing Agency of the City of Saint Paul (PHA) has begun efforts in relation to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The health and safety of the approximately 21,000 individuals that the PHA houses and serves on a daily basis, as well as our 230 employees, is our highest priority. PHA staff are actively engaged with Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health (SPRCPH) and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), as well as following guidance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); as part of the Agency's education, planning and response process.

Current Risk:

At this point, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a few confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota. However, the potential for additional cases in Minnesota is real and requires preparation.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is the lead agency responsible for monitoring and testing individuals who may have COVID-19.

PHA Planning and Response:

The PHA will continue to rely on SPRCPH, the CDC and HUD for guidance and direction on COVID-19. However, the Agency is also reviewing business continuity planning options, and will take steps to implement changes to daily operations as appropriate and/or directed.

In the meantime, all PHA departments should take time to review the Agency's established safety and response procedures, as well as the recommended disease prevention strategies listed in this notification. In addition, staff are also reviewing and distributing HUD recommended communications on COVID-19 to residents and Housing Choice Voucher participants.

General Disease Prevention Strategies:

The PHA is relying on the cooperation of all residents and staff to promote and follow good health practices, including the following disease prevention strategies as recommended by SPRCPH and the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

As a reminder, the PHA provides Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all of its locations such as disposable gloves, coveralls, and shoe covers; antibacterial hand sanitizer, surface cleaners and wipes; as well as handwashing stations. Please notify your supervisor if you are in need of additional PPE supplies at your work site.

COVID-19 Prevention and Preparedness Resources:

While the PHA will continue to do all it can to share information as this situation develops, we strongly encourage individuals to access information on COVID-19 prevention and preparedness through the following resources:

HUD: www.HUD.gov

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

MDH: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/health-medical/current-health-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Ready.gov: <https://www.ready.gov/pandemic>

Please be assured that the PHA will continue to vigilantly monitor SPRCPH and CDC recommendations; and will update residents, participants and staff as needed.

If you have any questions related to this information, please contact the Human Resources Department at 651-292-6104.