



**A Century of Progress with Pride**

**March 12, 2020**

The City of Berwyn is actively monitoring the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued interim guidance for businesses and employers in non-healthcare settings. This guidance is designed to help prevent workplace exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, and provides planning considerations if there are more widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19.

Local businesses are encouraged to implement CDC's strategies for employers:

- **Actively encourage sick employees to stay home:**
  - Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of a fever (100.4° F [37.8° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.
  - Encourage your employees if they are sick and are at risk for COVID-19, (had a recent travel history or exposure to someone who has traveled) that they should call their health care provider for further advice and should not go to an office or Emergency Room without calling in advance.
  - Ensure that your sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of these policies.
  - Talk with companies that provide your business with contract or temporary employees about the importance of sick employees staying home and encourage them to develop non-punitive leave policies.
  - Employers should maintain flexible policies that permit employees to stay home to care for a sick family member. Employers should be aware that more employees may need to stay at home to care for sick children or other sick family members than is usual.
  
- **Separate sick employees:**
  - CDC recommends that employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately. Sick employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available).

- **Emphasize staying home when sick, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all employees:**
  - Place posters that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene at the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
  - Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles for the use by employees.
  - Instruct employees to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
  - Provide soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs in the workplace. Ensure that adequate supplies are maintained. Place hand rubs in multiple locations or in conference rooms to encourage hand hygiene.
  
- **Perform routine environmental cleaning:**
  - Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
  - No additional disinfection beyond routine 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 by employees before each use.
  
- **Advise employees before traveling to take certain steps:**
  - Check the CDC Traveler's Health Notices for the latest guidance and recommendations for each country to which you will travel.
  - Advise employees to check themselves for symptoms of acute respiratory illness before starting travel and notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.
  - Ensure employees who become sick while traveling or on temporary assignment understand that they should notify their supervisor and should promptly call a healthcare provider for advice if needed.
  
- **Additional Measures in Response to Currently Occurring Sporadic Importations of the COVID-19**
  - Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.
  - If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19, in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Employees exposed to a co-worker with confirmed COVID-19 should refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.

\*Info can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>

Attached to this letter is a poster from CDC and we encourage you to share it with your staff and patrons to limit the spread of germs and promote a healthy community. Business partners and residents are encouraged to stay informed by visiting the IDPH's web page at <http://dph.illinois.gov/> and CDC's web page at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/covid19).

Respectfully,



Robert J. Lovero  
Mayor

