

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Employers and Community Groups

Good hygiene is the best defence

There are currently no vaccines available to protect against the human coronavirus infection. Employers are encouraged to think about the actions they can take to help staff stay healthy and help their operations prevent spread of any respiratory illness, including COVID-19.

Support good hand hygiene - remind staff to wash or sanitize hands frequently, particularly:

- Before after preparing or eating food
- After handling waste, dirty linens/clothes or bathroom use
- After working with animals
- Whenever hands look dirty
- After shaking hands

Washing with soap and warm water is preferred. Use disposable paper towels for drying hands or a reusable towel that you replace after use.

If warm soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Use enough to cover the fronts and backs of both hands, between fingers and rub hands together until they feel dry.

Use cough/sneeze etiquette

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Dispose used tissues in the garbage and wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after OR
- Cough/sneeze into your elbow, not your hand
- Avoid touching your face.

Clean common surfaces and objects often

Viruses can live on surfaces for several days. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects can reduce germs and prevent infection.

- Clean and disinfect items like doorknobs, light switches, railings, elevator buttons, toilets, desks and tabletops daily – wash using soapy water, then disinfect using household cleaning products or a solution of 1-part bleach and 9-parts water
- Disinfect phones, remote controls, computers and other handheld devices
- Wash or launder linens, clothing and uniforms on a regular basis
- Dispose of garbage on a regular basis and wash hands after
- Remove non-essential items like magazines, stuffed toys and other items that cannot be cleaned from reception areas

Make a plan

- Make sure you have a business continuity or emergency plan in place
- Think about what you will do if a number of your employees become sick
- Support employees who may become ill. Talk to your staff about flexible hours or working from home should they need to isolate
- Support proper infection prevention and control measures in your business. Post handwashing signs, provide alcohol-based sanitizer to encourage frequent hand hygiene and ensure space/surface cleaning is completed
- Avoid requesting doctors' note from employees who become sick or self-isolate

For accurate up-to-date information

If you have general questions about COVID-19 call **1-800-958-6400**

For the latest local information visit: **PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/covid19**

