COVID-19 Information for Public Facilities and Organizations

Indiana State Department of Health
Epidemiology Resource Center

WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus. It is not the same as other types of coronaviruses that commonly circulate among people and cause mild illness, like the common cold. The risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk.

HOW DOES COVID-19 SPREAD?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or longer in a 24-hour period) through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. The best way to protect yourself and to help reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 is to limit your interactions with other people as much as possible and take precautions to prevent getting COVID-19 when you do interact with others. Those steps include wearing a face covering, maintaining social distance of 6 feet and washing your hands frequently. If you start feeling sick and think you may have COVID-19, get in touch with your healthcare provider within 24 hours.

WHAT CAN EVENT ORGANIZERS AND FACILITIES DO TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19?

Public facilities and organizations should take everyday preventive measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- **Ensure adequate handwashing facilities and supplies are available.** Make sure restrooms are stocked with soap and paper towels. Consider making hand sanitizer stations available for visitors and staff.
- **Post signage encouraging proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette** (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve). Resources from CDC are available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html.
- **Encourage employees not to work while sick,** including instituting supportive sick leave policies that do not penalize staff for missing work while they are ill.
- **Encourage visitors to avoid visiting the facility if they are sick.**
- **Perform routine environmental cleaning.** Routinely clean all frequently-touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, countertops, work stations) with your usual cleaning products. Follow all instructions on the product label.
- Gov. Eric J. Holcomb's Executive Order 20-36 outlines requirements for gatherings and events, as well as special or seasonal events.
- Gov. Holcomb's Executive Order 20-37 details face covering requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information and resources for COVID-19 are available at the links below.

- CDC print resources (posters and fact sheets available in English, Spanish and Chinese) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html
- CDC COVID-19 website https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- Cleaning and disinfecting your facility: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html
- Gatherings and Community Events: Plan, Prepare, and Respond: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html
- CDC COVID-19 information for businesses https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html
- CDC COVID-19 frequently asked questions https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html
- ISDH COVID-19 website https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm