

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is at the top of mind for many of our City residents and stakeholders. The Cole County Health Department, (573) 636-2181, (<https://www.colecounty.org/186/Health-Department>) leads the City's preparations for public safety and emergency situations. City first responders are working closely with the Cole County Health Department; federal and state agencies; hospitals; and other local organizations to implement preventive measures and to monitor and respond to COVID-19 incidents as they arise. The City's and County's first responder personnel have procedures in place and personal protective equipment available to continue to provide quality service to the community at all times. Other Frequently Asked Questions' and answers from the Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>.

The following is advice from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for prevention of COVID-19;

- 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.

For information about handwashing, see [CDC's Handwashing](#) website.

For information specific to healthcare, see [CDC's Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings](#).

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses. CDC does have [specific guidance for travelers](#).

The CDC also has information for Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19 available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>.

If you have any questions about the preparations regarding COVID-19 please contact Cole County Health Department at (573) 636-2181.