



COLORADO

Dear State employees:

I know that there is a lot of anxiety and concern around the COVID-19, commonly known as the novel coronavirus, and I want to let you know that my top priority as your governor is keeping the people of our State safe. At this point there are no known cases in Colorado, but we are monitoring the situation in real time and are prepared to act for when we do have a positive case in our State.

To that end, I want to let you know that over the past eight weeks, we have been monitoring, meeting, and preparing for how we can keep residents safe from COVID-19.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is leading the way with support from the Department of Public Safety. Every State agency is involved in planning for the response in order to minimize disruption and continue to provide services to the great people of Colorado. The Department of Public Safety will continue to coordinate agencies through the State's emergency operations center, which I activated Tuesday.

In regards to testing, the State lab is conducting tests seven days a week and the public health field has been working with the healthcare professionals and communities to prepare for likely cases. When we do get a case, CDPHE will work with local public health agencies to respond and help contain the spread.

Since COVID-19 is a new disease, and there is more to learn about the virus, the current understanding about how it spreads is largely based on what is known about similar respiratory illnesses. The CDC recommends a few measures as a way to prevent the spread of the virus such as:

- 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.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick and keep your children at home when they 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.
- It is important to call ahead before going to see a doctor or emergency room to prevent the spread of illness. Tell them your symptoms and that you suspect you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 or had recent travel to a country that is experiencing community spread.

I encourage you to stay up to date with reliable information to help educate other Coloradans. People who have general questions about COVID-19, can call our hotline, CO HELP, at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org, for answers in English and Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通话), and more.

Please be patient and kind to one another as the demands for State services may increase. Know that like any other virus, no identity, community, ethnic, or racial group in Colorado is more at risk for getting or spreading COVID- 19.

Lastly, as it's important to be prepared and have a plan for your family. FEMA guidance for pre-pandemic COVID-19 preparedness is available on [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

I am grateful for each and every public servant who is going above and beyond to keep Coloradans healthy and safe. This is a rapidly changing situation, so expect periodic updates from the Department of Public Health and Environment and me. For additional information on the virus, visit: www.colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus

Please take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned on a light blue rectangular background.

Governor Jared Polis