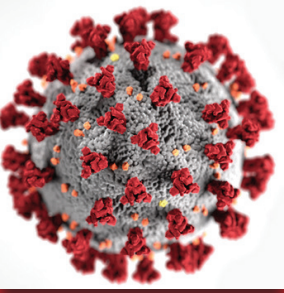




COVID-19 Precautions, Protocols and Updates – March 2020



Please review the following information pursuant to Board of Trustees Policy and Procedure 410.04 – Communicable Disease Policy.

What is a coronavirus?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), coronaviruses are common in animal species, and most don't affect humans. As of now, only seven different coronaviruses are known to infect humans. In their lifetime, most people will be infected with at least one common human coronavirus.

What are the symptoms of a coronavirus?

Common coronaviruses typically cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illness, and those affected exhibit cold-like symptoms. The most common symptoms include:

- Headache
- Cough
- Fever
- Sore Throat
- Runny Nose

Some cases of coronavirus can be more severe, and individuals experience more serious lower-respiratory tract illnesses like bronchitis and pneumonia. For the elderly, infants and those with weakened immune systems, coronavirus can be even more dangerous.

What is the health risk from COVID-19 in Illinois?

Currently, the health risk to the general public from COVID-19 remains low, both in the U.S. and in Illinois. The coming days and weeks are likely to bring more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. and globally, but strong public health measures now may blunt the impact of the virus.

How can we prevent infections with COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection. As with any respiratory virus, students and school personnel can protect themselves and others by taking everyday common sense actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.

IDPH **does NOT** recommend the use of masks or gloves.

*New Travel Recommendations at SSC

Due to recent acceleration of COVID-19 transmission and in accordance with CDC recommendations:

- Any SSC employee or student returning from high alert areas of China, Italy, South Korea, Iran, and Japan **should not attend school or work** for 14 days after the return date.
- Documentation of return date for travelers to these areas must be provided to Human Resources before returning to work or to the classroom for employees and students respectively.
- Absences for this purpose should be excused and alternate arrangements should be made for teleworking and online school assignments.

*New Reporting Recommendations at SSC

SSC employees and students who believe that a colleague or classmate has traveled to these high alert areas within the past month to report it immediately to our office of Human Resources.

- Individuals who returned from these high alert areas in the previous 14 days and develop respiratory symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, should seek medical care right away.
- Human Resources should be notified and will in turn, notify the Cook County Department of Public Health and Illinois department of Public Health.

For questions or to provide related information to SSC Human Resources, please call (708) 596-2000, ext. 2402.