



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division
Office of Child Care



February 27, 2020

Dear Provider,

The Office of Child Care (OCC) has received requests for information about novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. In response, OCC would like to offer resources to assist you with the best sources of information.

Background

The [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus. First detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, there are now cases of the coronavirus detected internationally.

There have been zero confirmed cases to date in Oregon, although you may have read that a number of people in Oregon are being monitored for the disease. These are individuals who do not have COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, but who may have been exposed through a close contact with a confirmed case or travel to mainland China. The only people in the state who have had symptoms that rose to the level of being under investigation have been cleared, as their test results were negative. There is currently low risk for the American public of contracting COVID-19.

Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the U.S. Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 has also been seen among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan, but at this time, this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the U.S.

We recommend that everyone do their part and help respond to this emerging public health concern: practice good hygiene, stay home if you or your child is sick, and if someone thinks they have been exposed, they should call their local health authority. Additionally, reduce stigma and prevent discrimination — do not make assumptions about risk based on a child or family's race, ethnicity, or country of origin.

Resources

For the best and most up-to-date information, visit the links below:

Oregon Health Authority: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211.

CDC (Center for Disease Control): www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV.

Your local health department: [Public health authorities](#).

We'll provide updated information as needed going forward.

Thank you,

Amy Joyce
Interim Child Care Director
Early Learning Division

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is coronavirus?

A: A respiratory disease with cold- or flu-like symptoms. In general, it is being called “coronavirus,” which is a broad term like colds and flu. More specifically this is called “new coronavirus,” or “novel coronavirus,” or “COVID-19” which is the specific virus making the rounds right now.

Q: How is it spread?

A: COVID-19 is spread from person-to-person contact primarily through coughs and sneezes (airborne particles), but also can spread by skin-to-skin touching (hugs and handshakes), and touching surfaces already infected (doorknobs, toys, dishes, etc.). It can spread quickly, just like a cold or flu.

Q: Is it spreading here in Oregon?

A: No, but that could change. As of today there are no confirmed cases in Oregon. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is currently monitoring about 76 people for symptoms (as of Feb. 26, 2020). The OHA monitored another 175 people in Oregon and determined they do not have the virus. In the U.S. there are approximately 53 confirmed cases – most of which were contracted outside the U.S. Internationally. The vast majority of cases are in a single province/state in China, but it has spread to about 30 other countries.

Q: What can I do to help prevent the virus from reaching child care children, staff, and me?

A: Reinforce the steps you already take to prevent colds and flu:

- Sick kids and staff should stay home
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly
- Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Frequently disinfect surfaces touched by hands, such as tables, chairs, doorknobs, and toys

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: Symptoms of the active virus are similar to the cold and flu: coughs, shortness of breath, and fever. However, note that this virus can spread and infect a person many days before they show symptoms. It is important to adopt the prevention strategies right now – before you see someone with cold- and flu-like symptoms.

Q: What should I do if I think a child, their family, my staff, or I have been exposed to this virus?

A: If you think someone has been exposed, or has symptoms, they should call their local health department and their health care provider to decide if they need to be seen. Once they make contact, they can create a plan to enter a clinic in a way that avoids being around others. They, and you, should follow the instructions from the local public health authority.

Q: Will I be required to contact families if I suspect a case of coronavirus?

A: There are notification requirements for Registered Family and Certified Family child care providers. The provider should work with their licensing specialist regarding this process.