



## **Joint Press Release**

### **March 11-2020:**

The Iron County Health Department, Western UP Health Department, Aspirus Hospital and Clinics, local Emergency Management, and other area partners regularly meet to take steps to prevent the spread of illness and ensure local communities are prepared in the event of a novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and state, local, and CDC partners will provide updated information and guidance as it becomes available.

Coronavirus reported illnesses have ranged from mild to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus. The symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Call your doctor if you develop symptoms and have been in close contact with a person known to have Coronavirus (COVID-19) or you have travelled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection, and there is currently no specific treatment. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating and after going to the bathroom, blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If you do not have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- 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 using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Local partners are If COVID-19 disease begins to spread in local communities, state and local public health officials would consider community interventions such as temporary closures of child care facilities and schools, workplace social distancing measures such as replacing in-person meetings with teleworking, and modifying, postponing, or cancelling mass gatherings. Decisions about the implementation of community measures would be made by state and local officials based on CDC guidance as well as the scope of the outbreak.

