WSU SPOKANE Announcements

HEALTH SCIENCES SPOKANE

February 28, 2020

SPECIAL CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENT

Coronavirus: Proactive Planning and Communication

As the coronavirus situation continues to evolve nationally and globally, we have seen an uptick in concern among WSU Health Sciences Spokane (WSU Spokane) faculty, staff and students. These concerns are understandable as COVID-19 has been known to cause severe illness and more cases are likely to be identified in the U.S. and elsewhere in the coming days. Although there are no active cases of COVID-19 in our area and the risk to campus is still considered low, now is a good time to reiterate steps people can take to reduce their risk of getting and spreading viral respiratory infections like COVID-19.

Prevention steps include:

- Washing 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 that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces.
- Staying at home and away from others if you are feeling ill.

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, you should call your health care provider. Be sure to mention if you recently traveled internationally or if you have had close contact with someone showing these symptoms who recently traveled internationally.

As we continue to monitor the situation, WSU Spokane has response and communications plans in place, should there be an outbreak in our community. These plans and procedures are being supplemented with information we receive from our partners, including local and state public health. In particular, Spokane Regional Health District continues to offer its guidance and considerations for decision management and response. We also continue to work closely with infectious disease and epidemiology experts within WSU, as well as planning and response groups within the larger WSU system. We're also keeping in close touch with our university partners to share in these proactive planning efforts.

Again, no cases have been identified in eastern Washington and any updates related to the WSU Spokane community will be provided on this page. WSU experts also contributed to a helpful Q&A in today's Spokesman-Review that you may find useful, as well as WSU Insider publishing a good article today regarding the quick detection of coronavirus misinformation.

If you have a medical condition that makes you more likely to be susceptible to this virus, please contact HRS Disability Services at HRS.disabilityservices@wsu.edu for additional guidance.

Otherwise, for more information visit:

Cougar Health Services

Spokane Regional Health District
Washington State Department of Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The WSU Health Sciences Spokane Announcements are published weekdays. To submit, please send your announcement before 10 a.m. the day you would like it published, but no earlier than 24 hours in advance. You must submit an announcement each time you wish to see it published. Announcements may be published twice a week. Submit to: wsuspokane.announcements@lists.wsu.edu

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