

COVID-19 TALKING POINTS DETAILED FOR SPOKESPERSON

- For confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- The Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.
- The virus is thought to be spread mainly from person to person – between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) but some spread might be possible before people show symptoms.
- How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the Hubei province and other parts of China.
- COVID-19 is an emerging disease and there is more to learn about its transmissibility, severity, and other features and what will happen in the United States.
- Hospitals and Clinics are following CDC and MDH protocol guidance for COVID-19.
- Patients who enter a healthcare facility with symptoms are screened for travel history or close contact with a person known to have the coronavirus.
- If patients are identified as a “suspect” case the healthcare provider will take appropriate PPE measures and contact the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for further guidance.
- If you have symptoms and you may have been exposed to Coronavirus through travel of another person who have been infected or exposed, call the healthcare provider before to the hospital or clinic.
- At this time there are no vaccines or treatments for the Coronavirus.
- Hospitals and clinics continue to plan for this event including increased surveillance, PPE training, surge planning, and contingency plans.
- As important as our efforts to prevent occurrence of COVID-19 are our current efforts to battle influenza
- As with other infectious diseases, there are steps everyone can take now in order to prevent becoming ill
 - Practice good hand hygiene
 - Cover your cough
 - Stay home if you're sick and keep children who are sick out of school
- We are using the knowledge we've gained from years of experience dealing with the flu to bolster our efforts to prevent and plan for the COVID-19 virus.