

## COVID-19 TALKING POINTS

- Given the rapid spread of COVID-19 virus, commonly referred to as the Coronavirus, in other parts of the world, it's important that healthcare providers, public officials and members of the general public remain alert to this ever-changing situation.
- There are no confirmed cases in south central Minnesota, or anywhere else in the State.
- Regardless, due to the many unknowns about COVID-19, members of the South Central Healthcare Coalition, including healthcare providers, public health agencies, emergency management, public safety organizations, long term care, assisted living organizations, educational institutions, and others are using our collective experience to work together to develop surveillance measures, response plans and public information efforts in order to stay ahead of this infectious disease. The Coalition will provide a coordinated response in our region.
- 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
- As important as our efforts to prevent occurrence of COVID-19 are our current efforts to battle influenza

For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

The South Central Healthcare Coalition is a collaborative of private and public partners working together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency and crisis events. It serves the counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan and is funded by the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) under the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR)