

**LVMPD QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**



**What is COVID-19?**

- A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.
- A diagnosis with coronavirus 229E, NL63, OC43, or HKU1 is not the same as a COVID-19 diagnosis. Patients with COVID-19 will be evaluated and cared for differently than patients with common coronavirus diagnosis.
- Data suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Symptoms can include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath.
- The virus causing COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2. It is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts. Respiratory droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can land in the mouths or noses, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs, of people who are nearby. Close contact may include:
  - Being within approximately 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time.
  - Having direct contact with body fluids (such as blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets) from an individual with COVID-19.

**Can someone who has had COVID-19 spread the illness to others?**

- The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person. Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others. That is why CDC recommends that these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home (depending on how sick they are) until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.
- How long someone is actively sick can vary so the decision on when to release someone from isolation is made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with doctors, infection prevention and control experts, and public health officials and involves considering specifics of each situation including disease severity, illness signs and symptoms, and results of laboratory testing for that patient.
- Current CDC guidance for when it is OK to release someone from isolation is made on a case by case basis and includes meeting all of the following requirements:
  - The patient is free from fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
  - The patient is no longer showing symptoms, including cough.
  - The patient has tested negative on at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected at least 24 hours apart.

- Someone who has been released from isolation is not considered to pose a risk of infection to others.

### **What steps can I take to prevent the spread of the illness?**

- Clean your hands often:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact:
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
  - Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.
- Stay home if you're sick:
  - Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes:
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
  - Throw used tissues in the trash.
  - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Wear a facemask if you are sick:
  - If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. Learn what to do if you are sick.
  - If you are NOT sick: You do not need to wear a facemask unless you have to come in contact with a positive case of COVID-19.
- Clean and disinfect
  - Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
  - If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

### **What are the Law Enforcement guidelines as outlined by the CDC and LVMPD?**

- Practice proper hand hygiene:
  - Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
  - If soap and water are not readily available and illicit drugs are NOT suspected to be present, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
  - Do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
  - Place a surgical mask on an individual you believe to have COVID-19 to prevent exposure
- Have a trained Emergency Medical Service/Emergency Medical Technician (EMS/EMT) assess and transport anyone you think might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility

- Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19:
  - Please refer to 5/110.10 for ***Occupational Exposure to Blood or Other Potentially Infectious Materials.***
  - Please refer to 5/110.04 for ***Reporting Workplace Health/Safety Concerns.***
  - Please refer to 5/110.14 for ***Reporting On-Duty Injury, Job-Related Illness, and Occupational Exposure to Communicable Diseases.***
- If close contact occurs during apprehension of a suspected COVID-19 patient:
  - Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe.
  - Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE.
  - Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering clothes.
  - Avoid shaking the clothes.
  - Report this information to your immediate supervisor.

#### **If I am exposed am I covered under *Workers' Compensation*?**

- All ***workers'*** compensation claims will be coordinated through Health and Safety within the established policy. Regular vacation, sick and bonus can be utilized. If this is found to be an approved claim, you will be reimbursed at a later date.

#### **What if I am currently exhibiting flu-like symptoms?**

- Follow appropriate procedures by reporting information to your direct supervisor for sick leave usage, and stay home. Seek additional medical care if need be. Follow necessary medical advice from a licensed professional. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Avoid close contact with others.

#### **If I am exposed how can I get tested?**

- All requests for testing will be sent through Health and Safety (***HealthandSafety@LVMPD.COM***).

#### **I don't want to come to work because I am fearful of catching COVID-19, what are my options?**

- Healthy employees afraid of catching COVID-19 can check with their supervisor to request leave time from work. In times of high absenteeism or due to operational need, however, leave requests may be denied and employees may be required to report to work. Employees are encouraged to manage their leave time requests to ensure they do not deplete all their time.

#### **What if my age or underlying health conditions place me at higher risk for complications from COVID-19?**

- Employees at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 are encouraged to contact their health care provider at the first signs of illness for advice. Employees at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 may discuss other work options if their bureau commander approves of it. You should contact Health and Safety to confidentially discuss leave or ADA accommodation options.

#### **What should employees do who return from high risk areas or are exposed to COVID-19?**

- Employees traveling to or from a Level 3 area (as designated by the CDC) or who have a reasonable basis to believe that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 (e.g., a person was in contact with an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19), must contact their bureau commander to discuss

returning to work after their return from the high risk area or exposure. These employees may not return to the workplace until at least 14 days after returning from the Level 3 area, or from the date of the last exposure to COVID-19.

- Employees may utilize any of their available paid leave (sick, vacation, floating holiday, or bonus time). If adjustments to the workplace are not feasible and an employee does not have any leave available, the employee should discuss the matter with their bureau commander and Health and Safety.

**What if I am placed under a government-mandated quarantine, approved quarantine by a licensed medical provider, or required to quarantine by the department based on a reasonable belief that (1) the employee was exposed to COVID-19 or (2) the employee is exhibiting symptoms of the virus?**

- Employees placed on a government-mandated quarantine, approved quarantine by a licensed medical provider, or required to quarantine by the department based on a reasonable belief that (1) the employee was exposed to COVID-19 or (2) the employee is exhibiting symptoms of the virus should discuss these symptoms with their bureau commander and Health and Safety. They may utilize any of their available paid leave (sick, vacation, floating holiday, or bonus time). If an employee does not have any leave available, the employee should discuss the matter with their bureau commander and Health and Safety.

**Can LVMPD require you to leave work if you report to work with flu-like symptoms?**

- A supervisor should encourage employees who exhibit flu-like symptoms in the workplace to stay home or return home. If an employee is unwilling to voluntarily stay home or return home, then yes, a supervisor can direct them to stay or return home as long as they are symptomatic. The employee must not return to the workplace until at least 24 hours after the symptoms have cleared.

**Contact Numbers for reporting:**

- Employees may contact Health and Safety at the following numbers. If you are sent to voicemail, someone will contact you as soon as possible:

702-828-3696

702-828-3330