March 16, 2020

Dear Community Stakeholders,

As part of the Weber-Morgan Health Department’s COVID-19 response, we want to share with you important actions you can take to help your employees and community. Currently, the Department recommends to plan and prepare to: 1) slow the spread of disease, and 2) be ready to respond to a possible community outbreak. Please consider implementing the following:

- Promote proper and frequent handwashing
- Encourage individuals to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissue or elbow
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces, such as door knobs and handles
  - All commonly used sanitizers are effective against COVID-19
- Stay home from work, school, and other social gatherings when ill
- Address concerns that may arise from stigma or discrimination by providing facts and promoting a caring community
- Consider postponing or canceling travel abroad to areas that are at higher risk for contact with COVID-19
- If you or others are concerned they have contracted COVID-19/coronavirus, do not go into a healthcare facility without contacting them via phone or telehealth prior to your visit
- Familiarize yourself and others with home isolation protocols. This key strategy will help limit the spread of disease, delay and spread cases over time, and support healthcare capacity to help critically ill people

It is important to know certain populations are at the greatest risk to develop complications with COVID-19. These high-risk groups include people over the age of sixty and those with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart, or lung disease.

As the number of COVID-19 cases increase, agencies should prepare for the continuity of operations by considering the following:

- Planning for the possibility of high rates of absenteeism
- Providing options to encourage employees to stay home when they are sick
- Minimizing the risk of potential exposure while at work, such as telecommuting

Inquiries have been made regarding the safety of our drinking water. Drinking water treatment and disinfection through public water supplies continue to serve as safeguards against drinking-water-borne viral infections. Coronaviruses are not spread through drinking water.
COVID-19 may be present in our wastewater systems as viruses and bacterias are frequently released through human waste. Normal protective measures must be followed when working with wastewater.

Utah’s disease surveillance system is working as designed with public health officials and healthcare providers coordinating to identify and investigate potential cases.

The CDC, Utah Department of Health, and the Weber-Morgan Health Department have websites dedicated to COVID-19 that provide reliable, current information. They can be found at:

www.cdc.gov/COVID19
coronavirus.utah.gov
http://www.webermorganhealth.org

For questions and additional information, call the Utah Coronavirus Information Line at 1-800-456-7707 or the Weber-Morgan Health Department at 801-399-7777.

Sincerely,

Brian Bennion, MPA
Executive Director