



# Chisago County Health and Human Services Public Health Division



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(03/04/20)

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

Health officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) are monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness, called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Cases of COVID-19 are now being reported in a growing number of countries, including the United States. Chisago County Public Health is in routine communication with MDH for the latest updates and information. We are preparing and will continue to communicate with the community if the situation changes.

Although several states have confirmed cases, Minnesota **DOES NOT** have any confirmed cases of the virus.

#### **What Chisago County residents can do:**

When a new disease is circulating, it's natural to ask what we can do to protect ourselves.

- **Take care:** Take the same precautions recommended for avoiding colds and flu (cover your cough, wash hands, stay home when sick).
- **Prepare:** Businesses should encourage sick workers to stay at home. Individuals and families should develop a plan for your household now, so you are ready in case someone gets sick. Families should consider back up child care options.
- **Travel:** If you are considering a trip, especially international travel, review [CDC travel guidance](#). This guidance is changing frequently
- **Face masks:** The CDC does not recommend that people who are well (healthy) wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.
- **Don't discriminate:** Do not show prejudice to Minnesotans of Asian descent or assume that someone of Asian descent is more likely to have COVID-19. Do not discriminate against people wearing a facemask or assume that they are ill. People wear masks for a variety of health and cultural reasons.
- **Educate yourself:** Make sure your information comes from reliable sources -- like MDH, CDC, or your healthcare provider. Know the symptoms -- for most people, COVID-19 starts with a fever and a dry cough, not a runny nose. Most people will have a mild disease and get better without needing any special care.
- **Stay informed:** Visit the [MDH](#) and [CDC](#) COVID-19 websites and [Chisago County Public Health's Facebook page](#) for continuously updated information.



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Twin Cities PBS is dedicating 30 minutes of broadcast time, every week, to this public health concern at 8:00 pm on Channel 2.1 (main PBS), and Channel 2.5 (TPT NOW). TPT is partnering directly with the Minnesota Department of Health -MDH (and others) to bring you weekly updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Hear first-hand information from public health, Governor Walz, hospital systems, cultural communities and more.

## **Where to watch or stream the weekly show:**

- Channel 2.1 (<https://www.tpt.org/almanac/>)
- Channel 2.5 (<https://now.tpt.cloud/>)
- TPT Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/tptpbs/>)
- TPT Almanac Page (<https://www.facebook.com/tptalmanac/>)
- Where to find channels in your area: <https://www.tpt.org/channels/>

**For further questions regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) contact Chisago County Public Health at 651-213-5200.**

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