Date: Fri, Mar 6, 2020 at 5:00 PM  
Subject: Guidance from Lt. Governor Cox on COVID-19/novel coronavirus

Dear Utah employee,

This afternoon, Gov. Herbert signed an [emergency declaration](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fdrive.google.com%2ffile%2fd%2f1HQf7KjdTadeQCLWQ38Y6y_XRwVH4TOnE%2fview&c=E,1,Weg4oI0jquO7NvT_Zeu4-kC21v5GRj_VnhK_BOZcWChHAbZGiFgaww1hPB4wX6t85gLrd1Bu1Ib8zVIrhzzH0ThdftBGHP5hUT0kNV8kzLlJF55eC6ChlQ,,&typo=1) due to the spread of COVID-19/novel coronavirus. Although no confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed inside the state, the declaration of an emergency allows the governor to access additional funds and authorities to help Utah be prepared when we do have cases.

This email is to provide you with information on the outbreak, how to protect yourself and your family, and how the state will manage employee exposure to COVID-19. More specific and up-to-date information can be found at [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/).

The COVID-19 Community Task Force, the Utah Department of Health, and the Division of Emergency Management are coordinating closely with public health partners and medical care providers throughout the state, and also with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Though the CDC considers COVID-19 to be a serious public health concern based on current information, the immediate health risk to the general U.S. public is considered low.

Again, although there are no confirmed cases originating in Utah, I expect that will change, and I am confident we are prepared to handle those cases.

The website [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/) offers common-sense guidance on prevention, including avoiding contact with people who are sick, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, staying home when you are sick, and cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The symptoms of novel coronavirus are similar to seasonal illnesses that are routinely spread in the community around this time of year – namely a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. On their own, these symptoms are not worrisome and should not cause alarm. However, because it is important to prevent the spread of the virus, if you have reason to believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, please stay home and contact your doctor, local health department, or the Utah Coronavirus Information Line at 1-800-456-7707.

If you have traveled recently or are planning to travel to a country with a widespread outbreak of COVID-19, you should consult the CDC’s [guidance for travelers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html), which is regularly updated as the situation changes. You should also notify your agency director, who has received specific guidance on questions related to telework, administrative leave, and related topics for employees who have traveled to a region with a widespread outbreak of COVID-19.

Utah is well-prepared for COVID-19, and I’m certain that by working together Utah will weather this storm well.

Thank you for your service to the state of Utah.

Lt. Governor Spencer Cox