

CSHS strategies for respiratory infection control

As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention



The Couse Foundation advocates prudent measures to control the spread of influenza, coronavirus, and other respiratory infections.

- **We actively encourage sick employees and volunteers to stay home**
 - Employees and volunteers who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are asked to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4° F or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g., cough suppressants).
 - If volunteers or employees have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival at the Site or become sick during the day, we ask them to return home immediately and take good care of themselves.
 - Our employee sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance, including care of sick family members.
 - As needed, we will inform our contract service providers of the importance of staying home if sick.
 - Should the COVID-19 outbreak reach Taos, employees and volunteers who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and refer to CDC guidance for [how to conduct a risk assessment](#) of their potential exposure.
 - If an employee or volunteer is confirmed to have COVID-19, we will inform those whom we are aware came in contact with the sick person of their possible exposure to COVID-19, but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Employees or volunteers exposed to a co-worker with confirmed COVID-19 should refer to CDC guidance as above.
- **We encourage good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene**
 - We have placed posters that encourage [staying home when sick](#), [cough and sneeze etiquette](#), and [hand hygiene](#) inside the main entrance to the site and in the public restroom.
 - Volunteers and employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available) and encourage visitors to do the same.
 - We provide tissues and disposal receptacles for use by employees, volunteers, and visitors.
 - We encourage volunteers and employees to frequently wash their hands (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds) or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - We provide adequate supplies of soap, water, paper towels, and sanitizer for use at the Site.
- **We have a protocol in place for routine environmental cleaning**
 - Employees are now routinely cleaning, multiple times per day, all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, visitor log pens, and their workstations.
 - We provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down before use.
 - CDC advises that additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is *not* recommended at this time (late February 2020).
- **We advise volunteers and employees to take the following steps before traveling:**
 - Check yourself for symptoms of [acute respiratory illness](#) and stay home if you are sick.
 - Check the [CDC's Traveler's Health Notices](#) for the latest guidance for each country to which you will travel. Specific information for China can also be found on the [CDC website](#).
 - Employees who become sick while traveling understand that they should notify their supervisor and should promptly call a healthcare provider for advice if needed.
 - If outside the United States, sick individuals are encouraged to contact a healthcare provider or overseas medical assistance company to assist them with finding an appropriate healthcare provider in that country. A U.S. consular officer can help locate healthcare services.

Let's all do our part to keep Taos healthy!