DATE: March 4, 2020

TO: New Hampshire Law Enforcement Personnel

FROM: Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (BIDC)

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Disease 2019 Guidance for Law Enforcement

We are writing to provide you with an update about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has been causing illnesses across the world since December 2019. There have now been cases of COVID-19 identified in New Hampshire and we wanted to make you aware of guidance for law enforcement personnel recently issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This guidance is available online at:


In addition to reviewing this guidance, which describes precautions to be taken while on the job, it is important for all of us take personal prevention measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illness, such as the flu, which we frequently see this time of year. Respiratory viruses spread through contact with an infected person’s respiratory droplets, such as when a person coughs or sneezes. To prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, you should take the following everyday steps to help stop the spread of germs and avoid illness:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose with unwashed hands.
- Do not to share personal items such as water bottles, smokes and/or vapes.
- Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. Remain home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (without fever-reducing medication) or signs of a fever (i.e., chills, feeling warm, flushed appearance), and respiratory symptoms are improving.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately discard the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
Finally, we recommend that law enforcement agency administration review guidance for businesses around planning for potential community transmission of COVID-19. This document recommends that organizations consider planning for the potential impacts of employee absenteeism and other considerations should there be widespread transmission of this virus in the community. While we hope community transmission will be limited, it is important to prepare for potential workforce issues that result from illnesses due to this virus.


Outbreaks involving COVID-19 evolve quickly and recommendations from public health officials may change as new information becomes available. Please check the following websites often for updated information:


Questions about COVID-19 can be directed to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at: 603-271-4496 (after-hours: 603-271-5300).