

MEMO



DATE: March 9, 2020

TO: Franklin County Employees

FROM: Beth Thomas

RE: Plan, Prepare, and Respond COVID 19 (Coronavirus)

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. Interim guidance has been issued based on what is currently known. While the U.S. Government considers this a serious public health concern, based on current information, the CDC has determined that the immediate health risk from COVID-19 to the general American public is considered low at this time.

Attached is a PowerPoint presentation* created by the Georgia Department of Public Health and has been provided through GEMA and our local EMA. We are sharing this information so you are aware, and can help reduce the spread of infection.

COVID-19 spreads the same way the flu and other respiratory diseases spread. The best ways to reduce the risk of getting this or **any** viral respiratory infection include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds – use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
- Clean your electronic devices with approved wipes or cleaning products
- Get a flu shot! A flu shot won't protect against COVID-19, but if you do get the flu, your symptoms will be less severe, easing the burden on health care facilities
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay at home away from others if you are sick
- Do not come to work if you have cold or flu-like symptoms (elevated temperature, fever, cough, shortness of breath)

Georgia Department of Health encourages us to stay calm and be prepared. Prevention is the best course of action. Additional information can be found at dph.georgia.gov and www.cdc.gov

**Note: The information provided in the presentation (03/06/20) is based on current guidance and is subject to change.*