



Addendum

I received the following from WSP Lt. Boyle at the Fusion Center regarding information they are sharing with their first responder partners. It is excellent information so I am sending along ASAP - Steve

We have been working with DOH health on bulletins for first responders. We just distributed one to all our first responder partners.

Some suggestions are:

- *For agencies to evaluate their plans and approaches to performing their work when a significant portion of their workforce is unable to come into work*
- *Agencies should strongly suggest or require that employees not come to work if they are sick*
- *I would suggest that all vehicles and workspaces have disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer, and use these frequently on shared and high-touch surfaces and hands, respectively*
- *I would encourage all officers to create additional opportunities to wash hands with soap and water*
- *If possible, fit-testing for N95s and use of N95s on medical calls with respiratory complaints seems reasonable. N95 use must be OSHA/DOSH compliant and part of a proper respiratory protection program. Further, I do not suggest the use of N95s on all calls.*
- *It would also be appropriate, in areas where LE responds to medical calls, to consider not sending officers to non life-threatening, lower priority medical calls – particularly those of a respiratory nature to reduce risk of exposure*

WSP Lieutenant Curt Boyle at the Fusion Center will be providing a 1-page document in coordination with WA DOH which we will send along as soon as we receive it- Steve

March 2, 2020

Greetings from your Executive Director:

We wanted to provide some information and samples regarding the **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** issue; we encourage all agencies to work with the state and individual county Departments of Health to coordinate efforts in your communities. This e-mail is intended to:

- Make sure you have what you need and to offer to facilitate or communicate at the state level if needed for Law Enforcement-related information;

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

- Provide some links and samples of both public and employee-related communications that may provide some assistance for you in terms of what you are sending out in your roles as Chiefs and Sheriffs.

If you are on track and don't need either of these, feel free to delete this e-mail.

Here are the direct links to the **State and federal health responses** for COVID-19. I am also including King County- being a large county with substantial resources they provide a lot of information:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

www.kingcounty.gov/COVID

This [article](#) also contains some **good real-world information on what COVID-19 is** and how it compares to regular influenza.

PERF send out this link that they prepared a few years ago for **law enforcement response to pandemics**- here is that [link](#).

PERF also worked with the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance on a series of reports about the **role of police during public health emergencies**, available [here](#)

The below is an example of a public communication regarding COVID-19 with links-- if you have a county or local Dept. of Health link that could be added--

Many people have asked what to do if you believe you have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms. This is the current guidance from Public Health:

- *Call your doctor - do not go into a medical facility.*
- *Your doctor will make an assessment about next steps. If it is determined that you should be screened for coronavirus, your doctor will contact Public Health to make arrangements for screening.*
- *Take all appropriate precautions. Do not go to work if you are sick. Wash your hands often and do not touch your face.*

Links to more information from Public Health, DOH and CDC:

- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Our WASPC Jail Liaison, Joh McGrath, is communicating with the State Dept. of Health on **challenges in managing jails regarding COVID**. Assuming most jail managers are already up

to date and working with the county and state Departments of Health, just let John know if there is anything additional you need to questions you have- he is at jmcgrath@waspc.org.

Here is an example of a **communication to employees** that provides some constructive guidance- again for your reference and to use any portion if it is of assistance to you. **The policy decisions about use of leave time need to be specific and make sure you note that portion.** This example makes specific reference to working from home that obviously do not apply to emergency response:

As you know over the weekend the number of confirmed COVID-19 Coronavirus cases increased in our State. Although the risk of exposure to COVID-19 remains low, it is increasing. If you have questions about the virus and its impact in Washington State, please check the [Department of Health website](#) and/or take advantage of the call center DOH has setup by calling 1-800-525-0127 and pressing #.

***Stay home if you are sick.** The [CDC](#) is recommending that people with symptoms of acute respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, congestion, runny nose, sore throat, body aches, fatigue) stay home for at least 24 hours after symptoms have subsided without the use of fever-reducing or symptom-altering medicine. Your sick or leave time may be used, not only for when you are sick, but also to care for a sick family member. Your leave time may also be used to care for a child if their school or day care is closed due to COVID-19.*

***Work from home or use leave time if you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or are at [higher risk for serious illness](#).** If you aren't sure if you can work from home, please speak to your supervisor to make sure you understand your options. Supervisors should be flexible, open-minded, and supportive of remote work arrangements whenever possible.*

Practice respiratory etiquette and hygiene.

- *Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not an option.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Avoid unnecessary touching, such as handshakes.*
- *[Cover your coughs and sneezes](#) (not with your hands).*

***Plan for disruption.** Workgroups should meet as soon as is practical to discuss upcoming meetings and events, identify critical functions, and plan for school closures, absences, etc. Emphasis should be on prioritizing the most critical work and providing opportunities for remote work and remote participation in meetings and events.*

We are actively monitoring the situation and planning according to the best information we can obtain. We will provide updates as things change and/or we learn more.

If there is anything WASPC can do for you to provide information or coordinate, please know we are here for you and let us know-

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs
3060 Willamette Drive NE
Lacey, WA 98516
steve@waspc.org
360-486-2380