



Safety Saves

Wyoming Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Safety Newsletter

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Safety is job one. And, it is everyone's job.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the best source of up-to-date guidance for planning, preparing and responding to COVID-19. At this time, much is unknown about how the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads. Current knowledge is mainly based on what is known about similar coronaviruses.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in humans and many different species of animals such as camels, cats, bats, and cattle. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread from person to person, such as MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in China and Italy and within the United States to a lesser degree at this time. However, respiratory illnesses such as seasonal influenza are also currently widespread in many areas.

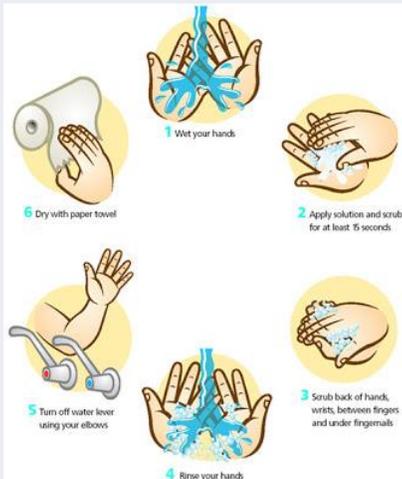
Since weatherization crew members are in direct contact with the public we serve, and we work within the homes of those we serve, it is important to prepare and plan for a possible COVID-19 outbreak. The CDC has issued interim guidance that may help prevent workplace exposures. Additional information is available on CDC's web page at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/covid19.

CDC Recommended Strategies for Employers

- **Actively encourage sick employees to stay home:** employees with symptoms of acute respiratory illnesses are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever, signs of fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines.
- **Separate sick employees:** symptomatic employees should be separated from other employees and sent home.
- **Emphasize staying home when sick, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.**
- **Perform routine environmental cleaning.**

EPA List of Registered Disinfectants:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPPT-2009-0150-0021>



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Most U.S. Workers Remain at Low Risk of Exposure

Despite the low risk of exposure in most job sectors, some U.S. workers may have exposure to infectious people. Per OSHA, workers with higher exposure risk include those involved in:

- Healthcare
- Death care
- Airline operations
- Waste management
- Travel to areas, including parts of China, where the virus is spreading

Identifying Potential Sources of Exposure

OSHA standards, including those for personal protective equipment (PPE, 29 CFR 1910.132) and respiratory protection (29 CFR 1910.134), require employers to assess the hazards to which their workers may be exposed.

Employers should consider whether or not their workers may encounter someone infected with COVID-19 in the course of their duties. Employers should also assess whether workers could be exposed to environments or materials contaminated with the virus.

COVID-19 and Wyoming

At this writing, there are no cases of COVID-19 being reported in Wyoming. Local, state and federal agencies across the nation are closely monitoring the situation. DFS is consulting directly with the State Health Officer and other state public health experts.

For additional information, go to the Wyoming Department of Health's Coronavirus website: <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/>

Proper Handwashing

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold)
- Apply soap
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap for at least 20 seconds
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them



- <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/show-me-the-science-handwashing.html>



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Be Prepared for Flooding

Snow melt, rainfall and dam and water system overflows all can lead to flooding. Floodwater can, in turn, cause power outages, disrupt transportation and damage buildings.

- Keep a weather radio on jobsites, or listen to local alert systems on smartphones for emergency information.
- Follow evacuation orders.
- Never drive around barricades or through floodwaters.
- If trapped in a vehicle in rapidly moving water, stay inside. If water rises within the vehicle, seek safety on the roof.
- If you're trapped in a building and water begins to rise in it, go to the building's highest interior level; use the roof only if necessary.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Never touch electrical equipment if it's wet or you're standing in water.
- Go to <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home> for info about the flood risk in your area.

Coyote Encounters: Do You Know What To Do?

Stop. Don't run. If you do, the coyote may chase.

Make yourself look big. Put your hands over your head or pull your shirt or jacket up over your head. Look as big as you can to scare off the coyote.

Announce forcefully, "Leave me alone!" Repeat if necessary. This lets the coyote know you're a threat, and it lets people around you know that you may be in trouble.

Retreat. Back away slowly. But don't turn your back on the coyote.

Teach your co-workers and others about coyotes.

Avoiding Dog Bites

The Humane Society of the United States urges anyone who sees a dog exhibiting the following **warning signs** to move to a safe distance.

- Pulled back head and/or ears
- Tense body
- Stiff tail
- Wrinkled brow
- Yawning
- Rolled eyes so the whites show
- Flicking tongue
- Intense stare
- Backing away

