

DATE: March 3, 2020

FROM: Vince Pellegrin – Chief Operating Officer

TO: All Staff

SUBJECT: Response to COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Understandably, the spread of COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, has raised questions about what we're doing to prepare here at Metro Transit.

While the risks associated with COVID-19 should be kept in perspective, we know we must do everything we can to help our employees stay safe while continuing to provide the essential transportation services our region depends on.

We appreciate that the concerns around COVID-19 are felt especially by our operators, police officers and facilities staff who regularly interact with the public.

As cases started to emerge globally earlier this year, we began meeting with state and federal public health experts to get the best information and guidance available.

Their message to us, and by extension to all of you, remains simple: Basic health measures like regular and thorough hand washing are our most prudent response. At this time, they do not advise the use of masks or avoiding large group gatherings.

To supplement the steps each of us can take to protect ourselves, we are doing all we can to keep our vehicles and facilities as clean as possible, comparing notes with peer transit agencies and updating the plan we'll rely on if the risk grows.

As Incident Commander for the Metropolitan Council's initial response, I am responsible for making sure we have all the resources we need now and that we could potentially need if the situation changes. As part of this work, I will remain in regular contact with the state's top public health and public safety officials.

While we are still learning about COVID-19, the facts we do have can offer some level of reassurance.

A limited number of cases have been reported in the United States. Among those who have contracted COVID-19, the most common reported symptoms have been coughs, fevers and shortness of breath. Very few deaths have been associated with COVID-19, and those that have been reported are primarily among elderly individuals and those who are already sick or vulnerable.

Moving forward, we will continue to keep you updated through the *Insights* newsletter and by posting relevant information at work sites. Information is also [available on MetNet](#).

For additional information, I suggest visiting the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites, where the best and latest information can be found.

Questions and concerns can also be directed to a manager or supervisor; please understand they may need to seek guidance before they are able to respond.

As always, thank you for doing your part to keep yourselves, our customers and our community safe.

Vince Pellegrin
Chief Operating Officer