

Co-op Coalition Survey: Coronavirus Efforts

Because only two members responded to the survey (probably, in large measure, everyone was trying to figure out what they should do, themselves), I've included resources that might be of help. When the survey was issued, DC had not reported anyone with the virus. However, only 4 days later, on March 7, the Mayor reported the city's first case of coronavirus. With the metro area having so many people who live here and travel internationally and domestically for work and pleasure, coupled with our area being a travel destination, it was not surprising when it was reported that we did have such a case. Consequently, it is no longer a theoretical question of "if" we have to consider safeguards, but a practical question of what steps we all should take individually and collectively to safeguard ourselves. We all should know what we should be doing individually, but what steps should co-ops be taking to treat our buildings? Please see, below. I also included the steps being taken by a 250+ unit condominium and the announcement from the DC Alert system for additional guidance and links.

Mike O'Dell, Director
 DC Cooperative Housing Coalition
www.CoopsDC.org
CooperativesDC@aol.com

 In a message dated: Mar 3, 2020, at 5:10 PM, DC Cooperative Housing Coalition <cooperativesdc@aol.com> wrote:

A manager of one of the Coalition members has been getting calls/emails/drop-ins to see what plans have been put into place for their co-op should emergency measures be needed concerning the Corona Virus. Has your co-op started or established any contingency plans? Please let us know by this Friday, March 6, and we will share them, if any, with our members. Thanks for your help!

<50 units	<p>I just got off an ANC & Faith leaders town hall phone call for COVID-19 planning in the district. The take away was right now the threat level is verY low in DC. We are following good community health practices which is what the CDC is recommending for all jurisdictions. They are not recommending any type of major changes. You can gather in public, take public transportation etc. Should DC experience any community cases (cases in which travel to particular areas is not the source if the transmission) then we would move to a different model. Since the situation is very fluid they are asking everyone to go to www.dchealt.dc.gov/Coronavirus for the latest info on where the district stands. If there were any cases in DC the CDC and DC forensic lab would be working with the patient and overseeing the level of quarantine they would be under. They would be the ones to give the next steps for the building.</p> <p>In my building we will be posting the CDC list of precautions and good community health practices alongside their list of household products that have been tested and is able to kill the virus. I think we ought to be especially mindful if you have seniors with no access to the internet. Make sure they get a paper copy or post it where they can access it.</p>
100 – 149 units	<p>Thank you for joining the call. As of March 2, there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the District; therefore, prevention is the priority of the Bowser Administration.</p> <p><i>[NOTE: 2 files were attached that served as posters that are available from DC Health and CDC. See website links at the end of this response.]</i></p> <p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DC Health continue to recommend the measures to prevent the spread of germs and avoid illness, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used if soap and water are not available.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. · Avoid close contact with people who are sick. · Stay home when feeling sick. · Cover your cough or sneeze in the crook of your arm or with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. · Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. <p>Additionally, District is sharing public messaging to stop stigma associated with coronavirus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronavirus doesn't recognize race, nationality, or ethnicity. Coronavirus (COVID-19) started in Wuhan, China. Having Chinese ancestry — or any other ancestry — does not make a person more vulnerable to this illness. • Wearing a mask does not mean a person is ill. People wear masks for a variety of reasons, including to avoid pollen and air pollution and for cultural and social reasons. We should not judge someone for wearing a mask or assume they are sick. • Speak up if you hear, see, or read discriminatory comments. Correct false information and remind the person that prejudiced language and actions make us all less safe. If discrimination occurs, report it to DC's Office of Human Rights at 202-727-4559. • Show compassion and support for those most closely impacted. Listen to, acknowledge and, with permission, share the stories of people experiencing stigma, along with a message that bigotry is not acceptable in our community. <p>For additional information, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov or dchealth.dc.gov/coronavirus.</p> <p>Sincerely, Julia Irving, Director Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services</p>
250 – 299 unit condo	<p>Dear [Condo] Resident,</p> <p>[Condo] Management and Board of Directors are working with [our cleaning company] in taking precautions during this time to guard against the possible spread of the Coronavirus. As of [March 6], there has not been any confirmed cases in Washington, DC.</p> <p>[The cleaning company] workers are using hospital grade disinfectant in cleaning/disinfecting all common area door handles (both sides), and elevator control and pushbuttons, (3) times/Day. The Common Areas, i.e. Lobby Doors & Front Desk including the signature pen, Elevators, Basement Hallway (including Sub-Basement Doors), Laundry Rooms, Trash Rooms, Hallway Exit Doors are all being cleaned/disinfected throughout the week.</p> <p>The Parking Garage ... (Entry/Exit Doors) and Bike Room are currently being cleaned/disinfected once per day.</p> <p>The [fitness center] is currently being cleaned twice daily 8:00AM & 3:00PM during the week. We will address this schedule with [our cleaning company].</p> <p>The front desk staff will also be wiping down the front desk and wipes have been provided to wipe off the shopping carts.</p> <p>PREVENTION To prevent the spread of COVID-19 or other viruses, follow these simple precautions:</p>

	<p>How to Protect Yourself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used if soap and water are not available • Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands • Avoid close contact with people who are sick • Stay home when feeling sick • Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a trash • Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces <p>Please feel free to review the link below for more information:</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html</p> <p>Thank you and be safe!</p>
DC Alert System	<p>DC Department of Health Confirms First Coronavirus Case</p> <p>Risk for Community Spread in the District Remains Low</p> <p>WASHINGTON, DC – Today [March 7], the DC Department of Health (DC Health) announced the District’s first presumptive positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The person has no prior history of travel outside the United States. DC Health is coordinating closely with the health team where this person is currently being treated and all infection control protocols are being followed. While this is first case in the District, there is still no widespread community transmission and the general level of risk for residents is low.</p> <p>Because human coronaviruses most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, DC residents are reminded to take the same measures that are recommend annually to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get your flu shot, and make sure the people around you do the same. - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds multiple times a day. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. - Cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper sleeve. Cover your coughs and sneezes to prevent others from getting sick. - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way. - Keep surfaces (especially bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, and toys for children) clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant. <p>DC Health does not recommend that healthy individuals wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. Residents should only wear a mask if recommended by a healthcare professional. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms. This is to protect others from the risk of getting infected.</p> <p>For more information on coronavirus, visit: https://coronavirus.dc.gov https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</p> <p>For more information on the District Government’s preparations for potential impacts of COVID-19 Coronavirus, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.</p>