

Understanding the Coronavirus

Feb 06, 2020



A new virus strain called coronavirus has created a worldwide concern due to the onset of illnesses mostly in China and surrounding countries. The coronavirus belongs to a large family of viruses that can cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to serious respiratory conditions, like pneumonia.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently declared a "global emergency" due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus illness in China, actions taken by the U.S. State Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has reduced transmission. For example, travelers from China can only enter the U.S. through specific airports where they undergo a health screening upon arrival and may receive additional monitoring. According to the CDC, the level of risk for widespread illness in the United States is considered very low.

Travel Information

Safety is an unwavering core value that pertains to injuries as well as infectious diseases and illnesses. To help ensure the health and safety of all our employees, anyone who has returned from China in the past 14 days – or who has a member of their household recently return from China – should contact the Corporate Health and Safety group at corporatehealthandsafety@firstenergycorp.com.

Each situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If appropriate, a nurse case manager will contact the individual to review their travel and health status in order to make recommendations to their Human Resources manager and supervisor. Applicable labor agreements will continue to be followed, and supervisors can contact Labor Relations with matters regarding bargaining unit employees.

Additional information on coronavirus

Employees interested in learning more about the coronavirus can visit the [CDC's website*](#) or [WHO's website*](#).

Staying Well

The best way to prevent infection from any respiratory virus, including the flu, is to avoid exposure. As a reminder, the CDC recommends the continued use of these everyday preventative actions:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing and coughing. Throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Get your flu shot. You still can download a RedBrick Health voucher for a free flu shot. Just log on to your account on the [HealthyLiving website](#)* or RedBrick Health mobile app to get the voucher and to read complete details.

The Corporate Health and Safety group will continue to monitor the situation, and any updates will be shared with employees. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Corporate Health and Safety group at corporatehealthandsafety@firstenergycorp.com.

Remember, we have the power to keep each other safe.

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