TOWN OF SCIO

SCIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COVID-19 STATEMENT

MARCH 15, 2020

Let me start by saying there TWO (2) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Allegany County. At this moment, we have no suspect cases either.   As of this morning, there are two confirmed cases in Monroe County. Because this is a new strain of the coronavirus, it is a rapidly evolving situation, while we are giving you the most up-to-date information we have, please know it could change in a moment's notice. Please bear with us as we try to give you the best information we can. We hope you find this information useful.

TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DISEASE, WE HAVE TO REMAIN CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT:

1. Staying home when ill, at least until 24 hours have passed since your symptoms have subsided.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
3. Practicing social distancing. Avoid large crowds and try to stay a minimum of 6 feet away from others, especially anyone ill, when you can.
4. Practicing frequent and thorough hand washing with warm water and soap for a minimum of 20 seconds (2 rounds of "Happy Birthday" song). Get a good lather and wash every surface of your hands, fingernails, wrists and between your fingers. Once you're done scrubbing your hands, rinse the water down from your wrists off of your fingertips, not up towards your wrists. This will cleanse your hands of all debris. Use your elbow or paper towel to turn the water off and to open the door to leave if you're in a public place. Diligent and frequent handwashing is one of the best defenses against the spread of disease. Remember, after you cough/sneeze/blow your nose, come into contact with other people or unknown surfaces and especially after using the bathroom, before preparing, handling and eating food/candy/gum, etc. you should thoroughly wash your hands. While handwashing is best, hand sanitizer with a minimum of 62%-63% ethyl alcohol is the next best thing if you can't get to a water source.
5. Regularly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.

Please practice these things year-round to help keep you and your family safe and healthy.

We want to be a little more specific about disinfecting surfaces. First, be careful that the product you're using is approved for the surface you want to clean/disinfect. There is a difference between cleaning and disinfecting. Optimally, wear gloves to protect your skin. Whether using a spray or a wipe, like Lysol or something containing bleach, typical for cleaning purposes, you just wipe the surface with the wipe, and you're done. To disinfect, you need to clean the surface first, then use a new wipe or re-spray and leave the surface moist (at least 2 to 10 minutes depending upon the product) and let air dry.   Some products will require you to wipe the surface while other don't. Never use a liquid/spray on keyboards, laptops, electronics, etc.

It is also very import to follow manufacturer instructions about disinfection of surfaces that may come into contact with food or for items/toys that may end up in a toddler's or other's mouth. Some products say to rinse with water once dry, others say no rinsing necessary, etc. That is why it's important to read the instructions on whatever product you are using to clean/disinfect and strictly follow them!

Here are some other tips for cleaning/disinfecting:

LAUNDRY: It's best to change your clothes as soon as you get home from work/school/public gatherings, etc. and immediately wash and dry them in as hot a water as the labels allow, with soapy water. Soapy, cold water is fine if water/hot water is not recommended by clothing manufacturer. Consider disinfecting the bottom of your shoes as well, if possible.

CELL PHONES: Follow your phone manufacturer's instructions, but here are some tips: Don't submerge your phone in liquid; wipe it down, following the disinfectant product guidelines. Don't use bleach! Avoid all ports and the camera portion of the phone. Allow to air dry and follow product guidelines.

DESK AND DESK PHONES: Disinfect daily or more often if the desk and/or phone is shared. Follow product guidelines to disinfect and don't forget to wipe down items like staplers/laptops/keyboards/pens/pencils, etc. without submerging or saturating with a liquid.

Rest assured our First Responders have been briefed and are following their own protocol via the NYS Dept. of Health and are ready to respond to our residents needs as a community.

We have supplied the link from the NYS Department of Health website of registered disinfectants, http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/covid19.pdf . This is not an exhaustive list and unfortunately is not alphabetical. Again, whatever product you choose, read product labels for proper use and for more information.

Once you are done disinfecting, throw away any wipe or cloth you use in the garbage right way, without setting it down on any other surface. Don't use a sponge or re-usable cloth unless you wash it every use, otherwise you are just wiping the germs around the next time you use it.   Use a one-time use product, such as a wipe or something you can immediately throw away, or immediately wash the re-useable cloth after every use.   After every cleaning/disinfecting, immediately wash your hands thoroughly, again, with warm water and soap for a minimum of 20 seconds.

Hopefully this will help clarify basic disinfection procedures.

J.W. Ames

Emergency Management

Scio Fire & EMS

Printed with excerpts from Allegany County Health Dept.