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The coronavirus (COVID-19) is upon us. The concern of infection grows everyday among our members. Large events, schools, etc. have been cancelled locally, statewide, and nationally. Business employees are being encouraged to work from home. Churches are even streaming Sunday services! These precautions that are being applied to everyone don't apply to the men and women that serve in law enforcement. We are still expected to do our job. We are expected to show up each day and continue to serve the citizens of Milwaukee. We do that everyday and we will continue to do that!! As a result, we have a higher risk of getting sick and contracting the coronavirus and sharing it with our families.

How is coronavirus spread? It is spread person-to-person, between people who are in close contact (6 feet) and through respiratory droplets from an infected person who coughs or sneezes. So how do we protect ourselves? The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), offers many ways to protect yourself and your family.

- Clean your hands often!! Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer when not able to wash hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact, which is within 6 feet.

I have even heard to take a sip of water every 15 minutes to keep your throat moist. Also, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap is not available. Wash the area that you work in with hand sanitizers or Clorox wipes.

What are the symptoms? Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure**. They are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. But if you develop difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, pressure in the chest, new confusion, or bluish lips or face, etc., go and seek medical attention immediately.

President Donald Trump has called this situation a Pandemic. U.S News defined Pandemic as a "disease that has spread across many countries and affects a large number of people." (<https://health.usnews.com/conditions/articles/whats-the-difference-between-an-epidemic-and-pandemic>)

Milwaukee Police Department SOP 210 – Communicable Diseases defines Communicable Diseases as "infectious illnesses that are transmitted through direct or indirect (e.g. airborne) contact with an individual, infected body fluids or other contaminated item." (210.05 C). As I read the definition in the SOP, I believe this would include the Coronavirus.

If you have been exposed, you should follow the "exposure incident procedures" that are outlined in SOP 210.60. A supervisor should be called upon to investigate an exposure incident and file the required reports. Why???? As I stated earlier, symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure**. I think that being exposed means if you have contact with someone who says they have coronavirus or someone who shows symptoms of having coronavirus. Also, document everything in your memo book. After reporting the exposure incident, please send me an email saying that you made a report. I would like to keep a record of the reports made. If any issues come up, please contact me.

Are officers, that contracted Coronavirus covered under worker's comp?? It depends...That is why I am saying to call for a supervisor to investigate the exposure incident and file the required reports!!!

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

This pandemic situation is very fluid. More information will follow.

Thank you and be safe!

Dale Bormann

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Some resources to read

City of Milwaukee Department of Employee relations

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>

cdc.gov