

Dear Parsons House Residents, Staff, Families, and Friends of Parsons,

As communities and public health officials respond to and closely monitor the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) around the world, our communities stand in solidarity with those affected by the coronavirus and their families, and the health workers trying to diagnose and treat patients.

We are monitoring the CDC recommendations, and working closely with the local agencies to monitor this situation and make decisions about the best steps to take to prepare our community should the COVID-19 virus effect our area. At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not contribute to the spread of rumor, misinformation or fear. Please check for updates and visit websites of the CDC and Departments of Public Health for latest information.

We are taking steps to reduce the spread of illnesses within our community – We want to keep functioning in a normal manner during this time, but we need your help to do this. We will actively monitor our residents and staff for any symptoms. We have reviewed our Infectious Disease protocols with staff and ordered additional protective gear for staff and residents. Residents and staff have been instructed to frequently wash hands, as the CDC reports that this is the best way to protect oneself for the disease. To our Friends and Families, you can do your part and if you have visited areas where the virus is present please do not visit the community. **This is the best way to contain illness and prevent infecting others.** 

The Department of Public Health recommends that the public do the following to protect themselves from all respiratory illnesses:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Face masks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and people who are sick.
- Get a flu immunization to prevent influenza if you have not done so this season.

Should anyone in our community become infected, we will follow the protocols as directed by local health authorities for infected and un-infected residents. Protocols may include isolating the resident in their apartment and/or asking families to bring residents home if isolation is not possible.

Please visit <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/</a> and the county departments of public health in your area. For more information.

We will notify you of any changes to our strategy to prevent the spread illness.

We will continue to keep you updated as necessary. It is our goal to provide our strongest defense to maintain the health of our residents. We thank you all in advance for doing your part to keep our community healthy.

Sincerely,

The Parsons Group