



The Village of Grafton and [Washington/Ozaukee Health Department](#) are monitoring closely the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. With that we wanted to provide a brief informational outreach for our residents. The Village wants to emphasize that the immediate health risk to the general public from the virus causing COVID-19 remains fairly low both in the U.S. and specifically in the Grafton-area. However, there are very simple preventative steps individuals can take to help minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread:

- Practice everyday preventive actions such as [washing your hands with soap and warm water](#); using hand sanitizer; covering your coughs and sneezes; avoiding ill people; and staying home when sick (except to seek medical care). These simple actions can prevent the spread of many illnesses, including COVID-19.
- It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and it is recommended to get a flu vaccine and take everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of illness.
- Childcare facilities, K-12 schools and colleges/universities should review their emergency operations plans, including strategies for social distancing and online learning.
- Businesses and employers should actively encourage all employees to stay home when sick, [perform hand hygiene](#), and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Community- and faith-based organizations should review strategies for social distancing and modifying large gatherings such as concerts and festivals.

Frequently Asked Questions

An excellent source for current information about the Coronavirus is the [Center for Disease Control's](#) website that has a page titled "[What You Should Know](#)" about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Below are listed some frequently asked questions:

➤ **What is Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)?**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people. For more information please visit the CDC's webpage about the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

➤ **What are the symptoms?**

The CDC believes at this time that **symptoms of COVID-19** may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Patients who get sick with COVID-19 develop mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- difficulty breathing

Many common illnesses can cause these same symptoms. COVID-19 can only be diagnosed at a public health laboratory. Individuals who have these symptoms and have traveled to China or have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should be seen by a doctor or medical professional.

➤ **How does it spread?**

Although the virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, **it is thought to spread** mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so.

➤ **How can I protect myself and my family?**

As with any respiratory virus, **you can protect yourself and others** by taking every day common sense precautions:

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - *If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

➤ **Do I need to wear a mask?**

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for **health workers** and **people who are taking care of someone in close settings** (at home or in a health care facility).

➤ **What can travelers do to protect themselves and others?**

Travelers returning from any country with a **Travel Alert Level 3** should stay home and monitor their health for up to 14 days. Please follow instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow the spread of this virus.

- Take your temperature with a thermometer 2 times a day and watch your health.
- If you develop a fever (100.4F/38C) or cough, seek medical care right away. Call ahead before going to a doctor's office or emergency room. In the case of a medical emergency, call 911.

Travelers returning from any country with a **Travel Alert Level 2** are also encouraged to monitor their health but do not need to limit their movement or activity. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider, and tell them about your symptoms and your recent travel to an area with community spread of COVID-19.

For more travel advice for other countries, please visit that country's Destination Page or CDC's **Travel Health Notice** website.

Helpful Local Contact Information:

You may wish to contact your own healthcare provider to discuss COVID-19 otherwise a local source of information would be the

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Room 246

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8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday – Friday

Phone: 262-284-8170

Website: <http://www.washozwi.gov/>