



District of Columbia Housing Authority

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Tyrone Garrett, Executive Director

March 4, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

At the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA), we are committed to ensuring the well-being of all of our residents and families. We'd like to take this opportunity to provide an important update around coronavirus (also known as COVID-19).

On Friday, Mayor Muriel Bowser signed a Mayor's Order to establish D.C. Health and the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency as the lead agencies directing the District's preparation, monitoring, and response. As of Tuesday, March 3rd the D.C. Department of Health reports there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Washington, D.C. But as with any public health concern, we need to be prepared and informed.

Prevention is everyone's priority at this time, especially during cold and flu season. Common coronaviruses can cause symptoms similar to a common cold, such as fever, cough, sore throat, and feeling unwell. The symptoms that are currently being seen with the current coronavirus infection are fever and respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath. D.C. Health continues to recommend the same precautions that help to prevent the spread of those common illnesses:

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

We are ensuring that all lobbies and common areas are stocked with soap as well as maintaining custodial protocols for cleaning and disinfecting. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a helpful handwashing resource page with activities for families and videos in multiple languages. Please visit www.cdc.gov for additional information.

We are monitoring the situation and working closely with D.C. Health and other District agencies on emergency preparedness procedures, as well as following guidance from the CDC regarding planning for a coronavirus outbreak.

The District Government will continue to share critical updates around coronavirus on the D.C. Health website: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>. Please be assured that the health and safety of our residents is our primary concern.

Sincerely,

Tyrone Garrett
Executive Director