



To Youth First participants and families:

In our mission to build youth for the future, the safety of our participants and families is among our top priorities. It is in the spirit of our mission that we want to provide you with information about our procedures and processes related to COVID-19 or “Coronavirus” you have no doubt heard about recently.

At this time, Youth First is in a prevention stage of managing for a potential outbreak, and we have employed common sense precautions at this time. These are standards and practices already in place for any illness outbreak, such as influenza or stomach virus, with increased diligence and focus. Our leadership staff and board have met and will continue to meet to prepare for any events that require a larger response. Our steps to prevent the spread of any germs include frequent hand washing, daily sanitization and cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, increased access to sanitizer throughout the building, proper food preparation and distribution procedures, encouraging those who are sick to stay home, and providing standards, reminders and education for each of these processes.

Youth First has prepared a response plan should more action need to be taken. Who decides when more action will be taken? We will follow the decisions of the local school districts who work with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This collaboration makes informed decisions regarding school closures or other impact on schools that could result from outbreaks of contagious conditions, while monitoring local and national health concerns.

What can you do at this time?

Practice common sense precautions and scrupulous hygiene, even more so than you would during cold and flu season:

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap. Use a paper towel to turn off faucets, lights and open doors. FYI, the tune “Happy Birthday” sung twice should be about 20 seconds. :)
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your arm or a tissue.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid touching surfaces as much as possible when out and about. And if you do, wash and sanitize.

The **CDC** (<https://www.cdc.gov/>), the **World Health Organization** (<https://www.who.int/>) and the **Minnesota Department of Health** (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/>) have more information for those who are interested in learning more.

We will continue to communicate information as it becomes available and as we learn more. Thank you for being a part of the Youth First community!

Devin Hanson, Executive Director