COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS, SPECIFICALLY COVID-19

You have likely heard the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed cases of the coronavirus (specifically COVID-19) in the U.S. We realize our residents may be anxious due to the vast media coverage. Therefore, we are providing you with information about the virus.

WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS, SPECIFICALLY COVID-19?

- A novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.
- A diagnosis with coronavirus 229E, NL63, OC43 or HKU1 is not the same as a COVID-19 diagnosis. Patients with COVID-19 will be evaluated and cared for differently than patients with common coronavirus diagnosis.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

- Current symptoms reported for patients have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Again, the CDC has said that suspected patients may have those symptoms or recently traveled to countries deemed at risk (China, South Korea, Italy, Iran and Japan) and/or have had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of coronavirus.

HOW DOES THE VIRUS SPREAD?

- It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. It's not clear yet how easily the coronavirus, specifically COVID-19, spreads from person-to-person.

IS THERE A VACCINE OR TREATMENT?

- Currently, there is no vaccine available and no specific antiviral treatment recommended. People infected with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, and the CDC will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available. The CDC works 24-7 to protect people's health.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for a least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES
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WHAT DO I DO IF I THINK IF I AM AT RISK?

- **For Independent Living residents:**
  Call your primary care physician, first, if you have mild symptoms, and let them know of your suspicion. Then notify your executive director.
- In severe cases, if you are in need of hospitalization:
  - Either present to an Emergency Department and let them know of your suspicion immediately on arrival, or
  - If you need to call 911, notify the operator of your suspicion, so the ambulance team can be aware on arrival.
- **For Assisted Living:** Notify your Franciscan Community care team of any suspicion or exposure.

WHAT IS FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES/COMMUNITIES DOING TO PROTECT ME?

- **Out of an abundance of caution, we have:**
  - Enacted a corporate emergency response team to provide support to our local teams.
  - Engaged with leading medical centers for recommendations and guidance to complement the internal expertise of our clinical team.
  - Added screening questions for our patient visits to determine if any of our patients might be at risk of illness or exposure to support the appropriate clinical escalation.
  - Re-educated our teams on the appropriateness of infection prevention measures, which are a part of how we operate on a daily basis.
  - Provided for additional access to personal protective equipment for infection prevention and personal safety for our associates and patients.
- **Additionally, we are:**
  - Limiting travel of our associates to avoid possible spread of the viral illness from city to city.
  - Ensuring that any of our associates that are sick stay home.
  - Providing regular updates to our teams to answer any and all questions.
  - Taking this very seriously and acting out of an abundance of caution.
  - Reviewing reputable health websites for updates on a daily basis to be able to share the latest news and information.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- You can learn more about the coronavirus on the CDC's website:

Source:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

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