



CHI ETA PHI SORORITY, INCORPORATED

“Professional Nursing Organization”

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POSITION STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK: SUSPENSION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

I. PURPOSE:

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread in the United States, everyone needs to take the necessary precautions to help prevent the spread of the virus. While it is difficult to assess the unique implications of COVID-19 in people, it is imperative to follow specific COVID-19 precautions and prevention guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and an individual’s personal health care provider.

II. POSITION STATEMENT:

The priority of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated, is the health and safety of its’ members as well as the communities served by our chapters across the United States and its territories. “Developing Healthy Communities through Advocacy and Collaboration” is a key part of the Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated’s theme. As such, due to the recent outbreak of the COVID-19, the Sorority will be **SUSPENDING COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES** associated with the organization until **April 15, 2020**. Also, some regional meetings may be postponed or canceled. (Note: Please check with your Regional Director for specifics about your region.).

III. BACKGROUND:

Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated, is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the CDC (2020), the United States is responding to an outbreak and community spread of a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus found in more than 100 countries across the globe. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2,” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”). On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern.” (PHEIC). On January 31, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency



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(PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. On March 11, the WHO publicly external icon characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. On March 13, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency.

COVID-19 is spread by person-to-person primarily via respiratory droplets produced when the infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs of those within close proximity.

The CDC has released Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection and guidance for Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation (PUI). Most important to us as a service organization is a guidance titled, “Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019.”

SUMMARY:

Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated supports the current efforts of the CDC in addressing and preventing the community spread of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor developments surrounding COVID-19 and will provide updated information regarding steps necessary to help prevent the continued spread of the virus.

These following actions will help individuals and communities prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water regularly, **for at least 20 seconds**, especially before eating or drinking and after using the restroom and blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
2. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
3. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue then throw the tissue in the trash. If tissue is not readily available, please cough or sneeze into a flexed elbow.



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4. Wash your hands after touching door knobs, counter tops, or other objects that may contain droplets.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed hands.
6. **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
7. Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community.
8. Stay home when you are sick.
9. If you present with symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or wheezing, especially if you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or live in or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread, call or see a healthcare professional immediately. Explain any symptoms, recent travel, or possible exposure to COVID-19.

Resources on Occupational Health Measures:

- [WHO \(World Health Organization\) – Coronavirus-2019](#) *(updated daily)*
- [WHO Courses on COVID-19](#) (clinical, epidemiology, emergency preparedness) *(updated daily)*
- [WHO Situation Reports – Daily updates with global data about the epidemic](#) *(updated daily)*
- [CDC \(US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\) Coronavirus-2019](#) *(updated daily)*
- [CDC – Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) *(updated February 26, 2020)*
- [CDC - Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States](#) *(updated February 29, 2020)*
- [CDC – Guidance on PPE for health care providers](#) *(updated 2/29/2020)*
- [CDC: Interim Guidance: Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak](#)

REFERENCES:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Novel Coronavirus 2019, Wuhan, China.

Retrieved from CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



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Frangos, S. (2020). American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine | Statement on Coronavirus. Retrieved March 14, 2020, from ACOEM website:

<https://acoem.org/Statement-on-Coronavirus>

Effective Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Priscilla J. Murphy
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