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DATE: March 4, 2020
TO: WIC Coordinators
FROM: State WIC Staff
SUBJECT: Coronavirus: Responding to Questions from Local Agencies

State WIC staff have received some questions from WIC local agencies about the potential for a Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Minnesota. The State WIC Program is following official sources of public health information and guidance related to COVID-19 from the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) and [CDC](#). The State WIC office will continue to monitor the situation and provide information and guidance as needed. We also encourage all WIC agencies to coordinate with local public health leadership and officials for monitoring and response in your local communities.

The Minnesota WIC Operations Manual (MOM) has policies in place related to WIC Operations during emergencies (see [MOM Section 1.17](#) and [Exhibit 1-M](#)). You can refer to existing policy and procedures to guide you in the event of an emergency, whether caused by severe weather, flooding, or a health-related emergency. Education Choice gives local agencies options for offering participants the opportunity to receive their nutrition education by phone or online, to reduce the need for in-person appointments.

Good hygiene practices in WIC clinic:

- WIC Staff and participants/applicants who are sick should stay home until they are well
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing
- Disinfect clinic surfaces regularly to prevent the spread of disease
- Utilize steps to disinfect toys in the clinic or if this is not possible, set toys aside

We will continue to monitor the situation and follow MDH and CDC recommendations to provide additional guidance if needed.

Please contact your State WIC Consultant with questions.

Resources from CDC:

- [Frequently Asked Questions: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) & Pregnancy](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 and Pregnant Women & Children](#)