



Coronavirus/COVID-19

Many of the attendees at IPRRC have expressed concern about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Board of Directors is equally concerned with potential impact of the virus on those attending IPRRC.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes..
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Due to these concerns, the conference Board of Directors is implementing the following common-sense procedures for the duration of the conference.

- Tissues and hand sanitizers will be available throughout the conference area and at each table.
- Between each session, tables and surrounding seating will be sprayed with a disinfectant spray.
- We are asking anyone who is traveling from a country where there has been a significant spread of the virus (e.g., China, Japan, Italy) to inform the conference staff of their attendance to assure appropriate precautions are taken. This information will be kept confidential by the staff.
- We are asking all participants to “self-quarantine” in the event they experience any symptoms associated with the virus and to inform conference staff. These symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The Board is also strongly urging everyone to follow these common-sense precautions as recommended by the CDC including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay away from conference activities if you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. However, the CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

If everyone follows these common-sense approaches, we will minimize any impact on those attending.