WTP Connections: Coronavirus Preparations Underway



March 10, 2020

Coronavirus Preparations Underway

I recognize there is a broad spectrum of emotions in the public, and likely in our workforce, about the coronavirus (COVID-19). I want to reassure you that at this time we have no suspected or known cases of workers with the virus at the Vit Plant.

We are being prudent and are monitoring Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state, and county public health agency updates, as well as working closely with corporate functions, other Hanford contractors, and the Department of Energy on preparations and potential response.

If we learn of a coworker with a case of COVID-19, whether presumed positive or confirmed, we will communicate that to you. Your health and safety are uppermost in my mind.

It is important to note that a presumptive but unconfirmed positive test result is one that is performed locally by a medical provider but has not yet been confirmed as positive by public health authorities, a process that can take at least 24 hours.

In the meantime, we each have a responsibility to continue being "our brother's and sister's keeper" by protecting ourselves and helping protect others. Many of our colleagues or their family members have underlying medical conditions and are more vulnerable. Even the healthiest of us should follow the CDC's recommendations to help minimize the spread of this virus. I ask you to follow the general practices recommended by the CDC.

We also have increased our janitorial efforts in town and at the jobsite to disinfect and sanitize high-touch, common contact surfaces such as handrails, doorknobs, and lunchroom surfaces.

We have added disinfectants and hand sanitizers in areas such as lunchrooms and conference rooms. We continue to ask that if you are sick, please, for the safety of yourself and others, do not come to work.

If you have questions, please submit them to wtpcomm@bechtel.com and we will answer them as we can.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and for keeping the safety of yourself, your teammates, and their families at the core of our work every day.