



## **Given the recent news regarding Coronavirus, STAR wants to provide you with some information and tips.**

Unless notified, all scheduled [activities](#) for STAR councils and action groups will take place as planned. STAR will be proactive and provide hand sanitizer and encourage frequent hand washing and encouraging those who are ill to not attend events. We will be offering full refunds to attendees who have travel restrictions in place or are ill for all upcoming events such as the 2020 Texas Reuse Tour. We have been closely monitoring the CDC's updates on the COVID-19 and the [World Health Organization's guidance](#) for live events as well as the recommendations from the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) who has deemed it safe to host events in the state of Texas. We will continue to monitor the situation and update our website with any timely developments. In the meantime, we encourage you to learn more on the World Health Organization's website, which can be found [HERE](#).

### **What is Coronavirus?**

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus is a new respiratory virus that was first identified in Wuhan, China. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2" and the respiratory disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"). The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person in China, and limited spread among close contacts has been detected in some countries outside China, including the United States.

### **How is it spread?**

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread person-to-person between people who have close contact with an infected person. COVID-19 is transmitted by contact, droplets and fomites.

### **Who is at risk?**

The greatest risk of infection is for people who have traveled to affected countries such as China, Italy, or others. Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the United States. Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 also has been seen among close contacts of travelers.

### **How is risk determined?**

The risk of infection is dependent upon exposure. Close contacts of people who are infected are at greater risk of exposure, for example healthcare workers and close contacts of people who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

### **How serious is COVID-19?**

Currently 80% of COVID-19 patients have mild illnesses, and 20% of patients develop more severe illnesses that require hospitalization.



## What should you do?

People should use the same public health measures as for other illnesses, such as hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette (coughing into your elbow or into a tissue and immediately disposing of the tissue). These are important actions that everyone can take to prevent infection.

- ✓ Please avoid handshakes and hugs; opt for [an elbow tap or a wave](#).
- ✓ Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, after glove use and before eating, drinking or smoking. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ✓ If you have any acute respiratory illness, consider staying at home or seeing a doctor.

## Where can you find additional information?

For more information about the Corona Virus, please visit the [World Health Organization's website](#). For more information about STAR events, please contact STAR's council relation chair, Wendy Chance at [wendy.chance@Questrmg.com](mailto:wendy.chance@Questrmg.com) or STAR at [info@recyclingstar.org](mailto:info@recyclingstar.org).