

From: [Carlos A. Gimenez, County Mayor](#)
To: [\(MetroNet\) All Internet Users; \(MetroNet\) All Users](#)
Subject: Message to Employees on Coronavirus (Covid-19)
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:06 PM

Dear Miami-Dade County employees,

I want to update you on the Coronavirus (Covid-19) and what Miami-Dade County is doing to avoid infection, as well as what you can do at home, at work and anywhere else to protect yourself and your family.

Let me stress that there are no cases of this disease in Florida at this time, but we always act with an abundance of caution and our goal is to be the best-prepared county in the nation.

Thursday afternoon, I met with representatives of the Florida Department of Health, the U.S. Coast Guard, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Jackson Health System, the Office of Emergency Management, Fire Rescue, Miami-Dade Police, Aviation and PortMiami. In our meeting today, we discussed ways to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors, and ways to protect County employees and maintain the health of everyone who works on the front lines of disease prevention and control. This is the regular flu season, so there are things you should be doing to prevent the flu. This Coronavirus – Covid-19 – is a new strain, with flu-like symptoms, and the same preventative measures should be applied.

You may have noticed there are signs going up at the Stephen P. Clark Center and other county buildings reminding people what to do to prevent regular flu as well as Covid-19. The Internal Services Department has also put hand-sanitizer stations near the elevators at SPCC. We are installing more free-standing sanitizing stations at all Metorail and Metromover stops and at the airport and seaport terminals. ISD has also increased the cleaning schedule of our public restrooms and high-touch surfaces in common areas.

If you are not feeling well, do not come to work. Supervisors will be asking employees to leave and see a health professional if they exhibit flu-like symptoms at work.

Here are things you should be doing now to protect against infection:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Cover your face with a tissue or your arm if you are about to sneeze or cough. Do not cough or sneeze into your hands, and do not touch your face or eyes without first washing your hands.
- Avoid contact when greeting people – so a nod is better than a handshake or kiss.
- Clean shared workspaces with alcohol or bleach wipes, since this virus can remain on smooth surfaces for 9 to 14 days
- Also, if you have a fever, body aches or other flu symptoms – or if a child or other member of your family has symptoms – again, stay home and call your doctor or visit a clinic or hospital to get tested.

The point is to take personal responsibility and prevent contamination. By using these common-sense preventative measures, and taking a communitywide approach, our employees and our 2.8 million residents can protect themselves and their loved ones.

My executive team will be meeting regularly with key local, state and federal agencies to ensure Miami-Dade County is prepared for any contingency. We will update you as more information is available. For now, our best line of defense is You. Please take care of yourself.

Carlos A. Gimenez, **Mayor**
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