COVID-19 is a new strain of virus in a family of viruses called coronavirus. Most coronavirus cause illnesses like the common cold; because this is a new strain, some people are experiencing severe symptoms.

**Symptoms of COVID-19**
- Fever greater than 100.5°F/38°C
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain when you breathe
- Difficulty breathing

**How is COVID-19 spread?**
- Close contact with an infected person (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period of time—several minutes to hours
- Directly being sneezed or coughed on by someone who has the virus
- Recent travel to an area with sustained new cases

**If an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspect they have been exposed:**

- Contact CSU Public Health at ehs.colostate.edu/WPublicH or call 970-491-6121

- Advise the employee to stay home and self-isolate until provided public health guidance. There is no one-size-fits-all recommendation. Each exposure case is unique and will be quickly assessed with individual guidance provided following current CDC guidelines.

- Advise staff with moderate to severe symptoms (example: shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) to seek medical care.
  - They should call ahead to alert medical personnel of their potential exposure.

- Notify other department personnel of potential exposure ONLY if advised by CSU Public Health. Staff with “close contact” will be assessed to determine risk and need to self-isolate or self-monitor.

- Protect the employee’s privacy by not sharing information with other staff.

- Ensure social distancing and hygiene practices are being followed in the workplace.

**When can the employee return to work?**

If diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee can return to work:

1. When directed by their provider, or per CSU/local Public Health guidance AND

2. When they have met the following:
   A. At least 72 hours without a fever while not taking fever reducing medication, and improvement in respiratory symptoms, AND
   B. At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

For more information about the virus and CSU’s response, visit: www.safety.colostate.edu/coronavirus