



An Important Update from the Infection Prevention Team

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As of **March 19, 2020**, please follow the guidelines below. We will provide updated information as necessary.

Athens Advance Care LLC is committed to providing home care services *with the highest professional, ethical, and safety standards*. Part of this commitment is providing you, our employees, with education to keep you safe.

With the current media attention on COVID-19, we understand you may have questions about what is true and what is not, and how that may affect you and your loved ones. Please review the frequently asked questions and answers below to equip yourself with correct, current information about the virus—and hopefully put your mind at ease, as well. This information and future updates can be found on our website www.athensadvancecare.com

What is Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

It is a new Coronavirus that was recently detected in Wuhan, China.

- Coronaviruses in general are a large family of viruses that typically circulate during cold and flu season and cause mild respiratory illness.
- COVID-19 have spread from person-to-person in China, and person-to-person spread among close contacts has been detected throughout the globe, including recently, the United States. Click here to view locations with confirmed COVID-19 cases
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/world-map.html>

How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. Person-to-person spread means:

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



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- COVID-19 is an emerging disease and there is more to learn about how it is transmitted, the severity of the virus, and what will happen in the United States.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms are similar to other respiratory viruses and may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

How soon after exposure to COVID-19 do signs and symptoms occur?

Symptoms occur anywhere from 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Be advised cases are actively being reported with no symptoms with positive results.

What is the risk for me?

- For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low. However, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to emphasize the importance of community preparedness, anticipating that there is potential for community spread to occur in the United States.
- There are currently no clients on service or employees at Athens Advance Care with COVID - 19.
- Clinical staff currently working in hospitals where clients with COVID-19 are receiving care are being provided with education and support to prevent transmission.
- The CDC has placed very tight controls on the entry of people to the United States from China and other areas where person-to-person transmission has occurred.

What is Athens Advance Care LLC doing to keep me safe?

- We have an Infection Prevention Program that provides the highest standards of infection prevention practices as recommended by the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health



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Administration (OSHA). This can be found at your client resident or in the employee handbook.

- The annual education Staying Healthy: A Guide to Infection Prevention booklet outlines all of these practices; if you have misplaced your copy, please contact the office.
- We will be issuing a new procedure for employee travel-related concerns for guidance with managing potentially exposed employees.

What can I do to keep myself and clients safe?

As a company, we are focusing on protecting our clients, employees, and partners we ask that everyone (staff & clients) help by following the CDC guidelines:

- Open communication with your office is a key element to keeping both you and your clients safe.
- Alert the office if you or a family member are traveling to or have traveled to one of the affected regions.
 - If you are traveling and unsure if your destination is affected by this outbreak, [click here](#) for important travel and safety information.
 - Please note that the CDC currently recommends that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy. [Click here](#) for more details.
 - Upon return to the United States from an impacted region, please follow CDC recommendations which include at a minimum monitoring for any signs or symptoms for 14 days post-travel from a level 2 area; and [self-quarantine, self-monitoring and social distancing for travel from level 3 areas.](#)
- In general, whether you travel to an area where this virus is present or not, please do not come to work sick.
- Alert the office of any communication that is shared with you by your clients, their families, your friends, or relatives regarding possible exposure to COVID-19 upon travel to an area where COVID-19 is present, so we can provide you with any additional information to keep everyone safe.
- Consistently follow all recommended practices for hand hygiene and standard precautions, including using gloves and personal protective equipment when caring for a client with influenza, and safety needles to prevent exposure to blood and body fluids. Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals. Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their face and cover coughs and sneezes. Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, and handrails regularly.