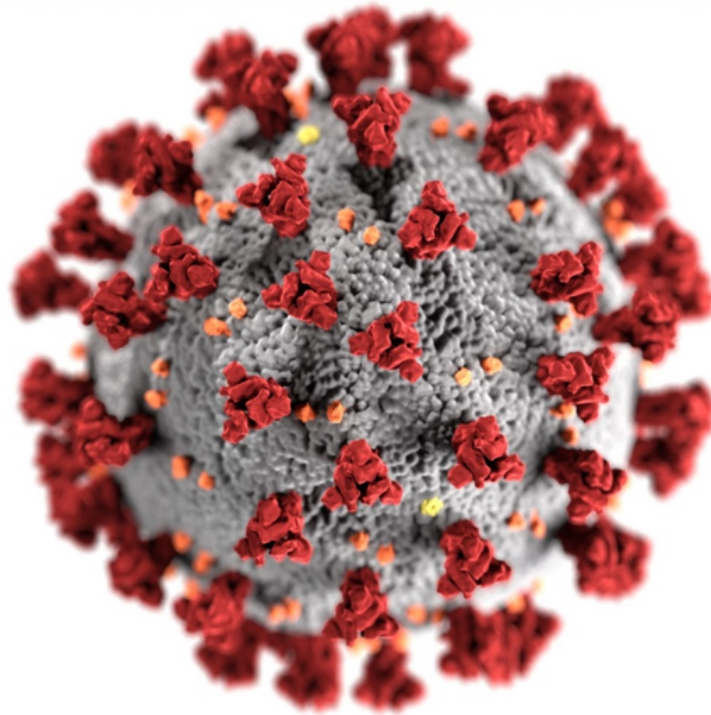




March 6, 2020

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE & RESOURCES



This morning, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) announced the second case of coronavirus in the state, both related to travel to other locations.

According to the NCDHHS and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the health risk to the general public in North Carolina from coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated COVID-19) remains low at this time.

Explore Asheville staff continue to monitor this developing situation closely and are in regular communication with industry leaders. We will continue to pass along guidance and information from trusted sources.

### Partner Resource

Explore Asheville developed a resource for the Southern Conference host hotels that incorporates CDC graphics and reminds visitors to stay safe during their stay.

We have repurposed this for use by any of our partners who may want to post it or share it with guests. You can download the flyer [here](#).



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## Common Sense Precautions

NCDHHS encourages people to take common sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.

These precautions are also helpful in preventing the spread of common illnesses such as influenza.

## Information Resources

Following are some reliable resources you may find helpful.

- [Buncombe County Health & Human Services](#): Includes information about COVID-19 specific to Buncombe County, plus signage that can be used at your business and a [document on planning for businesses and organizations](#).

- [NC Dept. of Health & Human Services](#): Includes basic information about the virus and North Carolina's response.
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#): Includes guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19 for households, businesses, and large community events.
- [Johns Hopkins University](#): Interactive map of global cases of COVID-19.
- [World Health Organization](#): Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19.
- [Destinations International](#): COVID-19 resources for travel industry professionals, plus a message from leaders in the events and meetings industry.

## Got Questions?

- Buncombe County Health & Human Services encourages those with additional questions about preparedness planning for your organization to email [ready@buncombecounty.org](mailto:ready@buncombecounty.org).
- Also, the [North Carolina Coronavirus Helpline](#) is staffed by nurses and pharmacists who can answer questions about symptoms, risk factors, how coronavirus spreads and possible precautions: 866-462-3821.

## Statement from U.S. Travel Association

*From Roger Dow, President and CEO:*

"We appreciate the aggressive response to coronavirus by the entirety of the U.S. government, and we are hopeful that the collective effort will continue to keep the risk of coronavirus in the U.S. to a minimum and enable American life and commerce to go on unimpeded—as health experts have repeatedly emphasized should currently be the case.

We will continue to closely engage the administration and public health authorities in the event official guidance must change based on this evolving situation. As we head into a traditionally strong season for leisure and business travel, we are reminded by public health officials that coronavirus risk in the United States remains low and that no official guidance recommends interruptions in travel plans in the U.S. at this time."



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