

Dear members of the Silver Key Community,

**What we know as of 3/9/2020:**

Silver Key staff members are working closely with partners at El Paso County Public Health and other State and Local officials to monitor the ongoing cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) throughout the world and our local community. To date, there have been 9 confirmed cases in Colorado; 1 case confirmed in El Paso County as of 1:30 p.m.

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*“The best prevention remains frequent handwashing, covering your cough and sneezes, and staying home if you’re feeling sick.”*

**What Silver Key is doing:**

At Silver Key, we are monitoring the evolving situation and following the guidelines of the CDC and El Paso County Public Health in all of our services and workspaces to keep our clients, volunteers, and staff safe, healthy, and our facilities clean. This includes:

- Increasing our cleaning protocols using products such as disinfectant spray, which has been found to be effective against viruses such as coronavirus.
- Adding more hand sanitation stands throughout our facilities for your use. Your partnership in this effort is welcome, and you're encouraged to use the sanitizing items that are provided as needed.
- Asking clients, staff, and volunteers to please refrain from visiting Silver Key if they're not feeling well, as is always the case when it comes to illness, for their own good and the good of others. If you have an urgent need and you are not feeling well, please call our Silver Line at 719-884-2300 for assistance by phone.
- Formulating and having plans in place should the need arise. We are meeting regularly to refine and update those plans as new information becomes available, and to continue learning as much as we can in order to make informed decisions.

While there is still more to learn about coronavirus, our intent in sharing this is to provide current and accurate information about the situation, and to offer pragmatic steps we all can take to keep our ourselves, our family and friends, and our community healthy and safe, while minimizing panic.

We all have a responsibility to do our part to limit the spread of this virus and other illnesses, especially to those at a higher risk due to age, compromised immunity, or pre-existing conditions. Additionally, by doing as much as we can to stay healthy ourselves, we support healthcare providers who will be caring for those in greater need when it becomes necessary.

Your health and happiness are paramount to us at Silver Key, and we are committed to monitoring the situation, communicating openly with you, and doing anything we can to help with this situation and anything else that comes our way.

## What we can all do:

According to Dr. Robin Johnson, Medical Director El Paso County Public Health, “There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.” However, as a reminder, the CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.
  - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Facemasks should be used by people who **show** symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging older adults and people with severe chronic medical conditions to “stay at home as much as possible.”

Please consult the following resources for more information:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#)
- [El Paso County Public Health](#)

## Questions?

**Call:** Silver Key’s Silver Line at 719-884-2300

**Email:** [info@silverkey.org](mailto:info@silverkey.org)