

CORONAVIRUS: AN ACTION PLAN FOR EMPLOYERS

As concerns over COVID-19 continue to grow, the Coin Laundry Association understands that owners of attended laundromats are concerned not only with the health of their businesses and the well-being of their customers, but also with the safety of their employees.

To help keep everyone healthy and to prevent the spread of this virus, here is the CDC's recommended action plan for employers:

Strongly encourage sick employees to stay home:

- Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever, signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines.
- Ensure that your sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of these policies.
- Do not require a healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or to return to work, as healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.
- Employers should maintain flexible policies that permit employees to stay home to care for a sick family member. Employers should be aware that more employees may need to stay at home to care for sick children or other sick family members than is usual.

Separate sick employees:

- The Centers for Disease Control recommends that employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms – such as a cough or shortness of breath – upon arrival to work or who become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and sent home immediately.

Emphasize staying home when sick, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene:

- Place posters that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene at the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
- Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles for use by employees.
- Instruct employees to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent to 95 percent alcohol, or to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Provide soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs in the workplace. Ensure that adequate supplies are maintained.

Regularly perform routine facility cleaning:

- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops and door handles. Use the cleaning agents that are typically used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use.

Source: Centers for Disease Control