Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Lodging Establishments

Updated April 29, 2020

PIMA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Recommendations will be updated and shared as new information becomes available.

Lodging managers and staff can implement these procedures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- **Switch to and use disinfectant products that have been pre-approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use against emerging viral pathogens.**
  - Disinfectants should be applied during routine cleaning of guestrooms, public spaces, health club areas and meeting rooms. The current list of pre-approved disinfectants is available on the EPA website.
- **Linens may become contaminated with the virus, so it is also important to add disinfectant when washing laundry**. Bed scarfs and bedspreads should be washed more frequently.
- Train housekeeping staff **to use the disinfectants safely and correctly**.
  - Staff should wear gloves when cleaning. Many of these cleaning products need to remain on hard surfaces for several minutes in order to work. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper use to get the most virus killing protection.
  - Schedule and perform routine cleaning and disinfection of all contact surfaces in public areas guestrooms, television remote controls, toilet flush handles, door handles, water faucet handles, and flooring.
- **Clean public spaces and the front desk area frequently**. If possible, provide disposable disinfectant wipes to front-of-house staff to disinfect surfaces between guests.
  - High touch areas in public spaces include tables in the lobby area and buttons on elevators, water fountains and ice and vending machines.
  - Pens at the front desk and room keys and key cards should also be cleaned with disinfectant.
- **Train hotel staff and post signage to remind guests and workers to wash hands with soap and warm water frequently, for at least 20 seconds.** If possible, provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol in all guest contact areas and to all staff. In addition, remind staff not to touch their faces (and to wash their hands after if they do) and to practice proper "social distancing" between guests and other workers.
- **Begin checking employees for symptoms of illness and keep sick staff at home**. The most common signs and symptoms of coronavirus infection are:
  - fever,
  - dry cough, and
  - shortness of breath.
  - Symptoms typically occur 1-14 days after exposure, though some people who are infected don't have symptoms.
  - The CDC is updating the list of symptoms regularly.
- **Consider requiring staff to wear cloth face coverings,** if it can be safely managed, in public settings. Guests can be encouraged to wear cloth face coverings when not in their rooms.
- **Stay informed with updated and credible information on the COVID-19 virus**. Follow information listed by the CDC, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and the Pima County Health Department.

Contributing information source: https://www.hospitalitynet.org/opinion/4097377.html

Staff or managers with questions can call 211.
For more information, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/ OR www.pima.gov/covid19