



DATE: March 16, 2020

TO: Department of Health Grantees

FROM: Department of Health

RE: Interim Guidance for Department of Health Grantees on COVID-19 Response

This document provides interim guidance to Department of Health grantees on the fulfillment of grant agreement requirements during novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) response and mitigation efforts.

The spread of COVID-19 has been detected in the United States and internationally. On Friday March 6, 2020 Governor Wolf signed a [declaration of disaster emergency](#) after the Secretary of Health announced the first two presumptive positive cases in Pennsylvania.

Department of Health grantees provide crucial services to individuals and communities across Pennsylvania. While grantees provide critical services, the priority of the Department is to ensure the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians. The Department advises grantees to take appropriate actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Under provisions in Paragraph 27 (Default and Termination), sub-paragraph C, of the Standard General Terms and Conditions, grant agreements will not be terminated in the event that grantees cannot perform duties outlined in the grant agreements due to COVID-19 response and mitigation efforts. If grantees are unable to perform the duties outlined in a grant agreement due to COVID-19, the grantees should contact their program administrator.

In alignment with the Governor's directives on travel and large meetings for commonwealth employees dated March 12, 2020, the department recommends that grantees abide by the following directives until further notice (see attached memos):

- International and Domestic Travel
 - No international travel for official commonwealth business.
 - No out-of-state travel for official commonwealth business unless determined to be mission critical by agency heads.
- Planning for Large Meetings, Conferences, Trainings, and Community Events:
 - Postpone hosting or participating in large meetings, conferences, trainings, or community events.
 - Consider virtual large gatherings as an alternative.



About COVID-19

Symptoms of the COVID-19 can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. The symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Reported illnesses have ranged from people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Individuals most at risk for severe symptoms include elderly and those with pre-existing conditions.

Pennsylvanians are reminded to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol- based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, cell phones and other frequently touched areas.
- Contain if you are sick, you should stay home until you are feeling better.

For the latest information on COVID-19, please visit the Department of Health's [website](https://www.health.pa.gov).