

YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS

During these unprecedented and challenging times, our thoughts and prayers are with the nation, our leaders, the front line health care providers and all who are adversely affected by this pandemic. The direct and indirect impact of the coronavirus pandemic is and will be extraordinary and unique for the foreseeable future.

Adaptability is a management paradigm of our firm's operating culture. Using technology resources and best practices, the attorneys and staff at our law firm have been fully enabled to work remotely and seamlessly away from our office for years. We have implemented all recommendations made by the public health experts and agencies, but are operating at full capacity. As a firm, we will support the needs of our employees and stand behind them collectively and individually during this crisis.

The recent coronavirus pandemic has wide-spread legal implications. These contingencies are evolving daily and will continue to grow and change. The most immediate impact is likely in the field of employment law and management of current litigation. Once business and personal financial and economic losses are defined and ascertained, we anticipate numerous issues to involve in the field of insurance, the performance of other commercial obligations and tort based recovery and/or risk transfer.

A BRIEF PRIMER ON CORONAVIRUS 19¹

The Novel Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) belongs to a family of coronaviruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as MERS-COV and SARS-CoV. COVID-19 is spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales from the human respiratory system. These droplets can land on surfaces and other objects. Transmission can occur when other people touch these surfaces or objects and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth. Exposure likewise occurs when a person breathes in droplets exhaled by a person with COVID-19. Although the risk is low, COVID-19 can be spread even though an infected person is asymptomatic.

¹ This information was obtained from the World Health Organization's Q & A on coronaviruses (COVID-19). World Health Organization, Q & A on coronaviruses (COVID-19), available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses> (last visited Mar. 13, 2020). This document is not medical advice. The narrative is presented to inform the context of the legal issues.

The World Health Organization is recommending the following precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Regularly washing hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Maintaining at least 3 feet of space between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing;
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Covering your mouth and nose with your elbow when coughing or sneezing;
- Staying home if you feel unwell;
- Avoiding COVID-19 hotspots

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, fatigue, and dry cough. Patients may also experience aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, or diarrhea. Symptoms are usually mild and being gradually, or may not develop at all. The incubation period of COVID-19—the delay between catching the virus and onset of symptoms—is estimated to range from 1–14 days. The most common incubation period currently observed is approximately five days.

Although most people who contract COVID-19 will experience mild symptoms, certain portions of the population have a higher risk of complications from COVID-19, including those over 60 years old and those with underlying health conditions (including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer). It is important for all people to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the virus, not only to protect themselves, but to protect the higher risk population.

