

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CTSO Advisors,

Over the past few weeks, there have been a number of questions and concerns regarding the national impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Among these concerns is the potential impact the virus could have on Nebraska Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) State Leadership Conferences.

At this time, the CTSO State Leadership Conference will proceed as planned.

We are committed to sharing vital information and updates with our CTSO chapters through a variety of channels. As such, the Nebraska Department of Education has created a <u>resource page</u> with links to information and updates to provide more guidance statewide for schools. The webpage is evolving and it will continue to be updated in the coming days and weeks.

If new information about the CTSO State Leadership Conference is available, your State Adviser will contact with you. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will be in constant contact with state and local health officials and rely on their guidance for this event.

If you have specific questions about your district's travel or cancellation policies, please reach out to your district's administration or communications office.

There are some simple, everyday steps you can take to reduce your chances of exposure and to protect others. Fortunately, those steps are the same that you would take to prevent the flu, the common cold, and other respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue (or sleeve) and throw the tissue away.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- Stay home if you are sick.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Take care of your health overall. Staying current on your vaccinations, including the flu vaccine, eating well, and exercising all help your body stay resistant to disease.
- Consult the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</u>
 <u>travel website</u> for any travel advisories and steps to protect
 yourself if you plan to travel outside of the US.

This is a dynamic situation and information will likely change moving forward. School officials should make the best decisions regarding the safety and wellbeing of their students, staff, and communities.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, CTSO State Advisors