



The “new normal” of this public health emergency coupled with physical distancing and wearing of masks makes this a trying time for everyone. As the City of Omaha begins to reopen and Governor Ricketts Directed Health Measures are lifted, wearing of a cloth mask to enter the grocery store is the “new normal”. Restaurants will be at 25% capacity. It has been 40 days since that last trip to the barbershop or salon. When you do finally get that appointment you will be greeted by protective barriers, physical distancing, wearing a mask, and waiting for the text that it is okay to enter the building. Disinfecting hard surfaces, tools, and equipment are not going away and neither is practicing good personal hygiene. Remember if you are sick, Stay Home. Due to the diligence of the City of Omaha Street Maintenance employees, that’s you, the “beast” has been kept at bay. Thank you to all of the employees accepting the guidelines and training them into your daily life at work and at home.

COVID – 19 Symptom(s) update:

As we learn more about the virus and how it attacks the human body, the CDC has updated the symptom list to the following:

- Sudden onset of cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste and/or smell

It is important to note that 47% of the individuals tested in Douglas County did not have a fever but did experience a persistent cough and loss of taste or smell. Proceed with caution when it comes to symptoms.

Donning/Doffing a cloth mask – Who are you protecting?

The COVID - 19 virus is a respiratory disease that is spread through droplets when a person coughs, sneezes, or even talks. The 6 foot social distancing mitigation technique was instituted for that very reason. The droplets that you discharge can only travel a short distance. The donning/doffing of cloth masks is another tool in the mitigation strategy tool box. By donning a cloth mask you are taking on the social responsibility of protecting others from you. Cloth masks do not prevent you from contracting the virus. Cloth masks should be considered contaminated once donned so use caution when doffing the cloth mask to prevent cross contamination. Cloth masks should be laundered after each use. The donning/doffing of a cloth mask in performance of our duties at the Street Maintenance Division is a recommended practice and is at the discretion of the employee.

Public Facing VS Public Interaction– Increased risk

OSHA has categorically labeled jobs that have limited public interaction as “low risk” exposure. The City of Omaha Street Maintenance Division is public facing but typically we have limited interaction outside the work group. As our daily lives begin to open up and we can actually go to our favorite restaurant, salon, movie theater or the gym, increased exposure to viral transmission is a direct result. WE have done a great job with the physical distancing, disinfecting, and personal hygiene. Please keep the foot on the accelerator!

