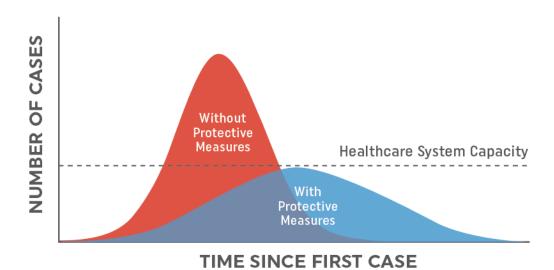


## **COVID-19 Press Release**

VTX1 Companies takes steps to protect against COVID-19

At VTX1 Companies, we value the health and safety of our customers and co-op members above all else, which is why we are closely monitoring events concerning COVID-19 (coronavirus). We are fortunate that, as of yet, our area has not had any confirmed reported cases of COVID-19. But it is still important for all of us to do our part to prevent the spread of the virus.

While taking protective measures may not prevent people from getting the virus, it can help reduce the number of patients our health care system must treat in a short period of time. As the graph below shows, taking measures to protect against COVID-19 can spread the number of cases across a longer period, ensuring that health care providers have the resources to help everyone who needs it.



With that in mind, VTX1 Companies is taking the following steps, in accordance with CDC guidelines, to protect both our employees and our customers and co-op members:

- VTX1 Companies employees who feel sick are being instructed to stay home.
- We are directing employees to cancel any work-related flights and to reschedule any work trips.
- Those who can work from home are encouraged to do so.
- Employees who work directly with customers and co-op members should avoid shaking hands or making any physical contact.
- We will be providing additional disinfectant products to employees in the office and posting additional reminders for employees to wash their hands often.
- All employees are asked to take proper precautions to ensure the safety of themselves and those around them.

VTX1 Companies also offers a variety of online services to help you pay your bill and conduct other utility business from home. In addition, we encourage all of our customers and co-op members to take similar steps to protect themselves and their families:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Put distance between yourself and other people where possible.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough, or use the inside of your elbow.
- If you are sick, wear a face mask around other people. If you are not sick or caring for someone who is, you do not need a face mask, and they should be saved for caregivers.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, handles, phones and keyboards daily.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely and explore further measures to support our customers and co-op members and the community as needed. Follow us on social media for updates and visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov for more information about COVID-19.