The San Diego Convention Center is closely monitoring the international outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus, COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time; however, the SDCC team has increased precautionary measures, training, and communication throughout the facility.

SDCC is tracking the situation through updates from the CDC and the California Department of Public Health, along with direct dialogue with San Diego officials. Precautionary measures include enhancing onsite communications and signage in restrooms regarding preventative actions (outlined below), placing an increased number of hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched objects, and providing ongoing training for SDCC staff and partners regarding best practices for providing a safe and healthy environment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Have there been any cases of COVID-19 at the San Diego Convention Center?
No, SDCC has not had any known cases of COVID-19.

Have there been any cases of COVID-19 in the San Diego region?
CDC officials confirmed two positive cases of COVID-19 in February 2020 after testing patients who had been quarantined at MCAS Miramar, located approximately 15 miles north of SDCC. The patients were quarantined after arriving from China. On March 9, San Diego County announced the first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in the region, a woman who developed symptoms after traveling overseas.

For more information about local monitoring, see the County of San Diego's Health & Human Services coronavirus resource.

Where can I learn more about coronavirus?
- See the CDC website and World Health Organization for information about symptoms, transmission, and recent cases.
- For local updates, see the San Diego County COVID-19 web page.
- For an informative guide for communicating with travelers, see U.S. Travel and San Diego Tourism Authority.
- For resources regarding events and facilities, see guides from PCMA and IAVM.

What protective or preventative measures are in place at the San Diego airport (SAN) and SDCC?
Signs of the virus among people entering into the U.S. are being closely monitored at points of entry (e.g., airports). The San Diego and Los Angeles International Airports are working closely with the CDC and U.S. Customs & Border Protection on appropriate protocols. There are no direct flights between the
San Diego International Airport and China. SAN is one of 20 airports in the U.S. that has a CDC quarantine station nearby. The CDC has informed SAN that if Customs and Border Protection personnel at its International Arrivals facility encounter an ill passenger, they are to contact the CDC directly for further assessment. The CDC has also provided SAN with specific guidance to help local EMS providers responding to medical calls at the airport assess and identify potentially infected travelers. Airports in other U.S. destinations with flights from China have implemented screening procedures.

At SDCC, staff receives ongoing training and updates about public health concerns. SDCC has increased its precautionary measures, including increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched objects such as door handles and placing prominent hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. SDCC has also posted “Stay Healthy” signage to remind attendees of everyday precautions. SDCC and its tourism partners are maintaining communication with local health agencies to ensure best practices are in place.

Have any conventions or other events been canceled or postponed?
Some organizations have canceled their events in March and April, and others have inquired about possibly rescheduling their events to later this year. Communications regarding any canceled or postponed events are initiated by event organizers. We are maintaining a list of confirmed event changes on our website.

How can you protect yourself?
Practice everyday precautions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

How do I recognize COVID-19?
According to the CDC, symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

What should someone do if they have flu-like symptoms and have recently traveled to China, or have had contact with anyone who has traveled to China?
They should seek medical care at a hospital. Before going to the hospital, they (or a designated contact/staff member) should call ahead to tell the hospital about recent travel history and symptoms. Event EMTs or SDCC staff can provide masks for individuals to wear on the way to the hospital. The severity of the symptoms would determine the appropriate mode of transportation.

Recommended Hospital: UCSD Medical Center-Hillcrest (200 West Arbor Drive, San Diego, CA; 619.543.6222), is 20 minutes away. It is open 24 hours a day.

Updated 3/11/2020
If the hospital determines that the individual has the virus, the San Diego County Department of Public Health Services will become involved and begin an investigative process in collaboration with SDCC. They will inform SDCC staff and help determine appropriate next steps.

**Why did San Diego County declare a local health emergency?**

On February 14, the County declared a local health emergency and proclaimed a local emergency to deal with the novel coronavirus. The local health emergency will last for 30 days, the local emergency for 60 days. The Board of Supervisors will consider extensions at each time interval.

According to the County, these actions empower the County to:

- more effectively respond to COVID-19
- seek and utilize mutual aid
- potentially obtain reimbursement
- ensure health professionals have all necessary tools available

**Do SDCC employees have access to paid time off if they feel sick?**

Yes. SDCC employees, including part-time staff, have access to paid time off.

**If COVID-19 becomes a problem at the SDCC or in San Diego County, how will staff, event organizers and attendees be alerted?**

Relevant updates will be posted to our website and social media pages:

- [Visitsandiego.com](http://Visitsandiego.com)
- [Facebook.com/SDConventionCenter](http://Facebook.com/SDConventionCenter)
- [Twitter.com/SDConventionCtr](http://Twitter.com/SDConventionCtr)

SDCC will communicate with event organizers, partners and other key contacts to relay updates.

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**Sources:** California Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, County of San Diego Public Health Services, First Aid Services of San Diego, San Diego International Airport, the U.S. Travel Association and the World Health Organization.