

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN UPDATE ON COVID-19: INFORMATION ABOUT SEWARD COMMUNITY CO-OP

3/15/2020, 7:00 P.M. Central Time

Today we learned that a staff member in our Franklin store location tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon learning of the results of the test, we moved quickly to notify our staff and our community. We have temporarily closed the store to implement a deep clean of the entire store. We are following all recommended guidelines from public health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health.

The staff member in question works only at the Franklin store location at 2823 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. They last worked on Tuesday March 10. This employee works only at the Franklin store in a small department. They do not cashier. We are not disclosing the department to protect the privacy of the individual who is ill. Our main concern right now is the wellness of this employee, other employees and our community at large.

Guidance from public health authorities is that individuals who were in “close contact” with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should self-quarantine. Seward has identified other staff who may have been in “close contact” with the affected staff person and is supporting these additional staff as they self-quarantine. Our co-op has a generous sick and vacation policy, and we are working with employees on a case-by-case basis to ensure they have the support they need.

The Seward Community Co-op store located at 2823 E Franklin will reopen no earlier than Tuesday, March 17 and will be staffed by employees who did not come into “close contact” with the employee who tested positive for COVID-19.

Across our co-op, we have asked any staff exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness or fever to stay home, contact our HR department, and notify their physician.

Our co-op prides itself on its cleanliness and food safety standards, and we are taking multiple steps to best serve you, care for our staff, and be a responsible member of our community. We have implemented rigorous cleaning practices throughout all of our stores, including more frequent cleanings of high-impact/high-touch areas across our entire co-op. To learn more about the steps we are taking; please see our [recent statement](#).

Our customer and employee safety is our highest priority as we manage this public health crisis.

As more information becomes available, we will provide updates.

Sean Doyle, General Manager
Seward Community Co-op
612-465-0888
sdoyle@seward.coop