

March 3, 2020

Dear ASCD Conference attendees and members,

ASCD Empower20 is scheduled to take place, as planned, March 13–16, in Los Angeles, California. Thousands of attendees and hundreds of presenters and exhibitors are committed to attending this year's event to hear from our inspired speakers, network, and learn more about the latest trends in education. Registrants continue to express their excitement for the event, and we are looking forward to seeing you all there!

We also want to share a brief message regarding the emerging public health concerns posed by the novel coronavirus. The association is closely monitoring COVID-19, commonly known as coronavirus, and is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for attendees. We will continue to follow guidance from local and national public health authorities regarding any developments. Fortunately, there are only a limited number of confirmed cases in the United States at this time. The California Department of Public Health and Los Angeles County Public Health Department continue to support the convening of public events and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) takes the position that the immediate risk to the American general public is considered low.

That said, there are several easy things that we can all do to help minimize the risk of exposure. These are the same basic steps we should be taking every day to help prevent the spread of illnesses such as the flu and the common cold.

- Wash your hands frequently. Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. In addition, having hand sanitizer readily available is always a good idea. We will be providing attendees with sanitizers in your registration bags.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Put your used tissue in a waste basket and wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, or who appear to have symptoms of a respiratory illness.
- Stay home and seek medical attention if you are ill.

The Los Angeles Convention Center, which will be hosting the conference, is expanding its normal flu season cleanliness protocol to include:

- The use of disinfecting electrostatic sprayers in high-traffic areas.
- Daily wipe downs of all common touch areas, including doorknobs, lecterns, light switches, escalator rails, trash receptacles, elevator buttons, water stations, and bathroom areas using a hospital grade disinfectant that meets the Green Cleaning Policy for LEED buildings.
- A significant increase in hand sanitizer stations throughout the Convention Center.

- Daily carpet sanitization in the public areas.
- Numerous continuous cleanliness steps.

Always check with reliable sources for the up-to-date, accurate information about novel coronavirus.

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)
<https://www.cdc.gov/>
- World Health Organization (WHO, International)
<https://www.who.int/>

With continued aggressive good hygiene, we can all do our part to help keep everyone healthy. We will continue to provide updates and guidance through the Empower20 App as the situation develops and new information becomes available. If you have inquiries or concerns related to the coronavirus, you are encouraged to email our team at programteam@ascd.org.

We look forward to seeing you in LA!

Sincerely,

Ranjit Sidhu
CEO & Executive Director
ASCD