

Caddo Sheriff/Homeland Security Director talks COVID-19

Monday, March 9, 2020

Caddo Sheriff/Homeland Security Director Steve Prator is recommending that all residents be familiar with tips and information that will help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

The Sheriff's Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Office receives regular updates from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and has participated in statewide briefings to receive the most current information to be passed along to citizens. Local schools have been provided precautionary information, but the Sheriff said businesses – small and large – should also be informed.

"While there is no need for alarm, there is also no reason we shouldn't prepare," Prator said. "A simple reminder to wash your hands frequently or not touch your face can do a lot to keep your workplace healthy." **Prator said employers are encouraged to print the attached flyer and post as a reminder to their employees.**

Specific information with tips for businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, and community organizations can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>.

In the meantime, Prator said businesses and others should follow the CDC recommendations listed below:

Stay home if you're sick

Staying at home from work when you are sick is the most important thing you can do to protect others.

Know policies

Ask your employer about sick leave and policies about absences, time off, and teleworking.

Encourage planning

Every business, organization and agency should have a plan to ensure essential work can get done if large numbers of employees are absent over many months. You may be asked to perform duties that are not typically part of your job.

Explore other ways to get your work done

Find ways to reduce personal contact, such as increased use of emails or phone conferences. Plan to work from home whenever possible. Be sure you can access your electronic documents.

At the Caddo Correctional Center, where over 400 deputies are employed daily and up to 1,500 inmates can be housed at any time, maintaining a healthy environment is key. Inmates are screened medically at the time of booking, which includes checking temperatures and asking specific questions about whether they have traveled out of the country recently. Plans are in place if someone is symptomatic, Prator said, and medical personnel are following all guidelines set forth by the CDC.

For more information on the corona virus or to sign up for the most current updates, go to www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/.

Attachments

