

Like many of you, the Ruby Central team has been keeping a close eye on the recent news about COVID-19 (alternately referred to as Coronavirus). We've been in close communication with our partners at the Oregon Convention Center and Travel Portland, and would like to share their official statement below regarding events like ours that are happening in Portland.

**As of today, March 2, we have no reason to believe that we should cancel RailsConf (May 5-7, 2020).** We certainly encourage our attendees to use your best judgment and to take whatever measures you feel best, but with the below information in hand, we are proceeding with our conference planning as per normal at this point.

Any questions on this can be directed to [railsconf@rubycentral.org](mailto:railsconf@rubycentral.org). Thank you!

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The Oregon Health Authority, city of Portland and Travel Portland like the rest of the world is monitoring the spread of the COVID-19 closely. At this time, there is no cause for concern of exposure to the virus in the city and the best precautions taken are on the individual level.

The Center for Disease Control encourages individuals:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at 60%–95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

It should be noted these are the same recommendations the CDC makes during flu season. As of Feb. 25, [the CDC had confirmed the virus is not circulating](#) in the U.S. You can monitor developments at the national level by visiting the CDC's website for COVID-19.

The Oregon Health Authority has been monitoring citizens who have been in regions where outbreaks have occurred. As of Feb. 24, 76 people were being monitored. No one was currently under investigation as of Feb. 24. Only two people have been under investigation since the outbreak and both tested negative for the virus and have been released. Weekly updates of the situation in Oregon can be monitored here.

Travel Portland understands the concern you may have regarding the illness especially considering recent news coverage. Our industry partners share our concerns for the health and safety of visitors and will continue to monitor developments as they occur.

Travel Portland will continue to refer people to the [CDC's website](#), which at this time gives the following "Risk Assessment."

Current risk assessment:

- For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.
- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated though still relatively low risk of exposure.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected [international locations](#) where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.