



## PWH: COVID-19 UPDATE

In response to [President Trump's Nationwide Social Distancing Guidelines](#): Partners for World Health will continue to remain temporarily closed until **April 30th**, when we will reassess the situation.

**This includes both our Walch and Canco warehouse locations and all activities including volunteering, donations, pickups and deliveries of supplies.** It is possible that this closure may extend beyond the current projected timeline. We continue to closely monitor the situation and will determine the appropriate time frame for reopening to volunteers, donations and collections as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.

**Medical supplies and equipment will be available for purchase.** The PWH Medical Supply Purchase Program (MSP) will continue to meet the needs of our community on a case by case basis. Please be sure to call the Medical Supply Program number 207-705-9020 to connect with our MSP staff if you or someone you know needs items. Please remember that all purchases and pick-ups are **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**.

While we recognize the severity of this situation, PWH is still committed to our mission of helping those in need, and as requests for supplies continue to be received locally and internationally. PWH staff is still working and we will endeavor to respond appropriately. If you are looking for ways to help out, please email [kelsey@partnersforworldhealth.org](mailto:kelsey@partnersforworldhealth.org).

During the past few weeks, we have all heard about the measures to mitigate exposure to each other. I would like to remind everyone that the following measures are imperative: washing your hands frequently; avoid touching your face, eyes or nose; refrain from shaking hands with others; cover your sneeze or cough with your arm.

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What is **MOST IMPORTANT** and has shown to be most effective in lowering exposure and the spread within our communities is **SOCIAL DISTANCING**. It is important that each and every one of us practice **SOCIAL DISTANCING** leaving 6 FEET between yourself and others. Maintaining these best practices will help keep our friends, family and our greater community safe:

- Refrain from visiting friends and family: do not go inside their home; if anything, make sure to stay outside when socializing.
- Utilize curbside delivery and take-out options provided by our local restaurants.
- Eliminate all unessential travel: traveling anywhere at present is not advised and will only accelerate the spread of the virus.

As we all try to make sense of what is going on around us, it is important that we limit the amount of conflicting information, misinformation and rumors; which only add to the stress. I want to ensure through frequent communication and open dialogue that everyone in our community has the information they need to make appropriate decisions. **We all have a collective responsibility to do what we can for the health and safety of our community, especially those most vulnerable to this disease, particularly the elderly and those who are immuno-compromised, diabetic, have cardiac disease or cancer.** Remember this disease hits anyone and no one is immune.

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Additional information and updated resources from the City of Portland is available here:

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/2582/COVID-19-Information>

For more information visit:

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