Guidelines for Safe Use of Restrooms

The virus that causes COVID-19 has been detected in fecal matter. Though there have not been any confirmed reports of the virus spreading from feces to a person, the following guideline should be followed to minimize any potential to exposure to the virus while using the restroom. The virus is transmitted by droplets and possibly aerosols, so it is important to consider how aerosols are created in restrooms. To avoid persons getting exposed to COVID-19 while using the restrooms at USC, the following guidelines should be followed.

RESTROOM USERS:

- Wear a face covering while in the restroom.
- Leave every other stall unoccupied.
- Use paper towels to dry hands after hand washing.
- Use a dry paper towel to operate door handles and locks (think airplane restroom courtesy).
- Use toilet seat covers when available or toilet paper to cover the toilet seat.
- Close the toilet lid (if available) before flushing.
- Use wipes or cleaners if provided to wipe over the surfaces you touched to clean up after yourself to help keep everyone safe.
- Be courteous. If restrooms are used by more than one occupant, social distancing should be maintained throughout the restroom visit, including hand washing. If there are only a limited number of sinks available, please ensure 6 feet distance between yourself and other occupants who are washing their hands. Please be patient and wait until the other person finishes washing their hands, dries the surface around the sink, and removes themselves from the area before walking up to the sink to wash your own hands.
- Avoid placing toothbrush or personal care items directly on bathroom sink or counter.

There has not been any confirmed report of the virus spreading from feces to a person. Scientists also do not know how much risk there is that the virus could be spread from the feces of an infected person to another person. However, they think this risk is low based on data from previous outbreaks of diseases caused by related coronaviruses, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

RESTROOM CLEANING

Facilities Management Services (FMS) will clean restrooms and their high touch surfaces three times per day, five days per week

AEROSOLS

Recent studies say there may be contamination when aerosols are dispersed when the toilet is flushed. To mitigate this risk, wash your hands thoroughly after you flush in the event the aerosols have created any contamination in the stall area. As a reminder, the CDC considers public restroom use low risk when practicing physical distancing and appropriate hand washing.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

To the extent feasible, the number of students sharing a given bathroom facility shall be reduced. Install impermeable barriers (such as Plexiglas) between sinks and other fixtures if it is not possible to maintain at least six feet distance during use.

RESOURCES

CDC Guidelines for Reopening - http://tiny.cc/cdc-clean-disinfect