

## **Coronavirus Disease 2019 – March 12, 2020**

How should square dance organizations prepare for/respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)? Should it cancel dances/classes, continue as usual? Square dancing is a very social activity – hand holding, yellow-rocks, swinging, etc., where an individual is in constant contact with others.

Currently, neither the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nor the Minnesota Department of Health recommend the cancellation of mass participation events in Minnesota. To help protect dancers, volunteers, and the community at large the following prevention strategies are recommended:

- Practice every day personal hygiene – wash hands thoroughly with soap and water; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; cover your cough.
- Provide access to prevention supplies at an event – hand sanitizer, wet wipes, etc.
- Discourage sick individuals from participating in or working at an event. If you are feeling ill, take common sense precautions such as staying home – just the same as you would for the typical flu and cold season.

Individuals and organizations will want to make their own decisions about specific events based upon many considerations. Keep abreast of what is happening in your local community. The facility may make the decision for you by closing or limiting its use.