March 10, 2020

News of the coronavirus continues to dominate the headlines. I recognize there is a broad range of emotions throughout our workforce about the virus, also called COVID-19. That is expected and understandable. At this time, we have no suspected or known cases of our workforce with the virus at any of our onsite or in-town facilities and offices. Your health and safety remains a top priority for me and our entire leadership team.

We are being prudent and are monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and county public health agencies, and we are working closely with our corporate parents, other Hanford contractors and the Department of Energy on preparations and potential response.

If we learn of a coworker who has the virus (presumptive or confirmed), we will communicate that to you immediately. A presumptive but unconfirmed positive test result is one that is performed locally by a medical provider but has not yet been confirmed as positive by the CDC or other public health authorities, which can take at least 24 hours.

In the meantime, we each have a responsibility to safeguard ourselves and our coworkers from this potential illness. Many of our colleagues or their family members have underlying medical conditions and may feel they are more vulnerable. Even the healthiest of us should follow the CDC’s recommendations to help minimize the spread of this virus. Please follow the general practices recommended by the CDC.

We continue to ask that if you are sick, please — for the safety of yourself and others — stay at home and focus on getting healthy.

A frequently asked questions (FAQ) webpage regarding COVID-19 has been established for all site employees. The page is available at: http://www.rl.gov/page.cfm/COVID-19, and you can submit questions to CVFAQ@rl.gov.

The inbox for submitted questions will be monitored during business hours by communications staff. Answers to questions that apply to many employees will be posted on the FAQ webpage. Questions about circumstances specific to just an employee or a few employees will be responded to you directly by email.