March 4, 2020

RE: Update Concerning the Coronavirus

Dear Write Around Portland Community,

We want you to know that we are keeping up to date on the evolving coronavirus situation. You may have heard that, as of this writing, there have been three presumed cases of novel (new) coronavirus confirmed in Oregon. Because our work building respect, writing and community means bringing people together, in person, we wanted you to know the steps we are taking to reduce risk. At this time, we are continuing to hold our writing workshops at our partner agencies as planned and are following the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

In our workshops we are: providing hand sanitizer and individually packaged snacks; encouraging handshake-free greetings; reviewing the CDC guidelines with our workshop facilitators, scribes and participants; following the lead of our partners in situations where they’ve implemented additional preventative measures; providing weekly writing prompts by email for those who miss workshops because they are sick or not comfortable joining.

We will continue to review information from the Oregon Health Authority and will notify you as soon as possible if, at any point, cancellations to workshops are scheduled.

Because Write Around Portland is not a healthcare provider or authority in health services, we are relying on the information provided by the CDC and Oregon Health Authority. We encourage everyone, especially those who are elderly or immunosuppressed, to read more about the virus:

- For information from the CDC, visit the CDC’s website.
- For the most up-to-date local information, visit the Oregon Health Authority website.

What You Can Do to Protect Yourself and Others:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly for at least 20 seconds. (Alcohol hand sanitizers are also effective.)
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. If you use a tissue, wash your hands afterwards.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Most importantly, if you are not feeling well, please stay home and get well.

For individual concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at info@writearound.org.

Sincerely,

The Write Around Portland Staff