

## **Guidance for Washington State Consumers Moving During the Coronavirus Outbreak**

Like so many other organizations and businesses, the Washington Movers Conference (WMC) is concerned with the health and safety of our members and all Washington State based consumers in need of State regulated HHG moving services. For consumers who request HHG moving services, WMC members will be there for them safely within current guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by our State leaders, all of whom are constantly updating their guidance.

Be assured State regulated WMC member moving companies are taking specific steps to mitigate risks to the health and safety of consumers and their employees.

### **Here is a sampling of our professional mover member's measures for managing through Coronavirus:**

1. State regulated WMC member moving companies have the capability to provide virtual estimates electronically rather than in-home ones; but please remember - Legitimate movers will never provide an estimate over the phone! Completed HHG Estimates must be signed by the customer.
2. State regulated WMC member moving companies have taken the time to reiterate the practices of good hygiene, like frequent hand washing, and providing hand sanitizer and gloves for their moving crews.
3. Rather than greeting with handshakes, State regulated WMC members are encouraging their employees to greet consumers in other ways, including fist or elbow bumps.
4. Check your State regulated WMC selected mover's website for other ways that they are mitigating risk to you.

### **As you plan and prepare for your move, here are some steps you can take:**

1. To ensure everyone's health and safety, if you or anyone within your household may have contracted the Coronavirus, or are isolating due to exposure to the virus, call your WMC selected moving company and explain the situation; in many cases, the professional moving company will work with you to select a more appropriate moving date.
2. If you must cancel your move, be sure to ask questions about how your state regulated WMC selected professional mover is managing cancellations now.
3. Your health and the health of your family is important. If you are in a vulnerable group, over age 60 or have a compromised immune system, schedule your move after the pandemic is over if it is at all possible.
4. Provide your moving crew access to a sink, soap and paper towels throughout your move. If this isn't practical, it would be great to have hand sanitizer available.
5. Purchase new moving boxes and tape; this isn't the time to use recycled boxes from online sources or free sites or from stores.
6. If you have not already purchased food for the next couple of weeks, you'll want to stock up only on items that you eat regularly. Any shelf-stable items can be donated to [Move For Hunger](#) before your move to lighten your load.
7. When moving long distances, you may want to make arrangements to ensure meeting your moving truck at your new destination or arranging for a representative to do so.
8. If flying to your new destination, be sure that you book refundable plane tickets and choose hotels that offer free cancellation in case there is any disruption. Ask about cancellation policies before you book and remember to read the providers fine print.