

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
and Immunization Section**

401 5th Avenue, Suite 1250
Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-4774 Fax 206-296-4803
TTY Relay: 711
www.kingcounty.gov/health



UPDATE: 2019 Novel Coronavirus and Schools - Information for School Nurses and Administrators

Late last week, we provided guidance to schools regarding best practices for responding to 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), based on the latest guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This guidance has since changed. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending that all travelers from China (including school students, staff and volunteers) arriving in the U.S. **AFTER** February 2, 2020 at 2 pm stay at home away from others and monitor their health for 14 days. This measure was put in place because of the increasing number of cases of 2019-nCoV in China.

There is no recommendation for asymptomatic persons arriving before this time to restrict their activities. All travelers from China arriving **BEFORE** February 2, 2020 at 2pm can continue to attend school and should take the following steps:

- Watch for any changes in your health for 14 days after leaving China.
- If you get a fever or develop a cough or difficulty breathing during this 14-day period, avoid contact with others. Call your doctor or healthcare provider to tell them about your symptoms and your recent travel.

As new information emerges, please remind your community that *the risk of 2019-nCoV is not at all connected with race, ethnicity or nationality*. Stigma will not help to fight the illness. Sharing accurate information during a time of heightened concern is one of the best things we can do to keep rumor and misinformation from spreading.

The Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) has published this [revised guidance for schools on their website](#). WA DOH will continue to update this webpage as new information becomes available.

In order to streamline guidance during this evolving situation, going forward, Public Health will only communicate to you about 2019-nCoV guidance if there are implications specific to King County. Please continue to refer to this WA DOH webpage for the latest 2019-nCoV guidance for schools: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus/Schools>

At this time, the immediate risk of 2019-nCoV to the general public in Washington and the U.S. is considered to be low. As with any newly emerging infectious disease, knowledge evolves with time and recommendations are changing rapidly. Thank you for your patience during this evolving situation.

WHERE CAN I TURN FOR MORE INFORMATION?

- [2019 novel coronavirus \(2019 nCov\)](#), Public Health Seattle & King County (this site includes multilingual factsheets)
- [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak 2020](#), WA State Department of Health
- [2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [Guidance for Travelers](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- WA State Department of Health novel coronavirus call center: 1-800-525-0127 and press #