
John V. Dolan
Superintendent of Schools



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February 28, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

While the East Islip School District does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in our schools, we are aware of concerns in the community about the spread of this relatively new virus.

The district is closely monitoring this fluid situation and following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Suffolk County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department.

Based on recent reports, COVID-19 is not actively circulating in New York state at this time. If the district becomes aware that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, it will immediately notify staff and parents/guardians. If a student or staff member shows respiratory symptoms, we will follow our current practices for handling respiratory illnesses, subject to any additional guidance forthcoming.

The district has infectious disease protocols in place and has been taking steps, such as cleaning and disinfecting throughout its schools, to minimize the spread of viruses and a variety of other illnesses.

There are a number of steps that students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the state Department of Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Heavily soiled hands should be washed.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you or a family member begin showing symptoms of a respiratory disease and suspect it may be COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider. Before going to your healthcare provider's office, inform them that a case of COVID-19 is suspected, and follow their advice.

Local health departments will contact schools if a suspected or known COVID-19 case emerges. The district is prepared to work with any affected families.

Families are also encouraged to follow the CDC's information for travel, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. For more information, consider consulting these additional resources:

- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
- Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>
- COVID-19: What is Stigma and What Causes It?
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fstigma-faq.html
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Frequently Asked Questions - Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#prevention>
- Prevention, Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

In addition, New York has established a Novel Coronavirus Hotline, which can provide additional information. Call 1-888-364-3065 with questions or concerns about travel and symptoms.

The district will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Please know that, as always, the health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority, and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John V. Dolan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John V. Dolan
Superintendent of Schools

To Parents and Guardians,

The following information regarding the Coronavirus has been provided to us by the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Department of Education:

A new coronavirus called 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was first found in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This virus had not been found in humans before. This coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and trouble breathing or shortness of breath. There are thousands of diagnosed cases in China and new cases being diagnosed in a number of countries including the United States.

What do we know?

Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working hard to learn as much as possible about this new virus, so that we can better understand how it spreads and causes illness. The CDC considers this virus to be a serious public health concern. Based on current information the CDC recommends avoiding travel to China. Updated travel information related to 2019-nCoV can be found at

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china>

How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread?

Health experts believe the virus probably spreads from animals to humans and from person to person. It's not clear yet how easily the virus spreads from person-to-person.

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is not currently a concern for the general public and is not actively circulating among New Yorkers at this time. Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and there is no need for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

Prevention

There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all travel to China.

Symptoms

Information to date suggests that 2019-nCoV causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Are visitors from China being screened?

Yes, as of February 2nd new screening protocols are conducted for individuals entering the US from China at designated airports.

PreK-12 schools may have students who attend school and have traveled to various areas in Asia, including China. Students should not be excluded from school or any school activities based on race, country of origin, or recent travel (or a family member's recent travel), including to any part of China. Schools may only exclude a student if a local health department informs the school that a student must comply with a quarantine order or the student is symptomatic of a communicable or infectious disease pursuant to Education Law §906.

Important Health Information for Those Who Have Recently Traveled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and Experience Symptoms

If you recently traveled to Wuhan, China and feel sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing; OR you develop symptoms within 14 days of traveling there, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Contact your local health department.

This is an emerging, rapidly changing situation. For questions please contact your local department of health or the NYS DOH Novel Coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065**. We encourage you to keep up to date about 2019-nCoV, its treatment and prevention by visiting the following websites:

Additional Resources

CDC's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV>.

NYSDOH's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

NYSDOH directory of local health departments https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/

New York State Center for School Health website at www.schoolhealthny.com

Schools Should Prepare for Coronavirus Outbreaks, CDC Officials Warn

By Mark Lieberman

February 25, 2020 | Updated: February 25, 2020

Schools need to prepare for a nationwide surge in cases of the coronavirus that's currently wreaking global havoc and could disrupt daily life in some communities, federal officials warned Tuesday.

"You should ask your children's schools about their plans for school dismissals or school closures," Nancy Messonnier, a director at the Centers for Disease Control, said during a press briefing on Tuesday. **"Ask about plans for teleschool."**

Messonnier warned at that time that her agency is confident an outbreak will occur in the United States and is now mulling "exactly when this will happen and how many people in this country will have severe illness." A few hours later, federal officials, including Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, sought to downplay the urgency of the earlier warning from CDC officials.

She also said she'd already contacted her local superintendent asking about the district's plans in the event of an outbreak.

The disease, which originated in China last month, has claimed more than 2,600 lives and affected more than 77,000 people worldwide. Fourteen people in the U.S., plus 40 passengers on the Diamond Princess cruise ship, have confirmed cases of the illness, for which typical symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath, according to the CDC. In the last week, people in Italy, South Korea and Iran have died from the virus.

Tuesday's warning from the CDC marks an abrupt shift in tone from the agency, which has largely remained circumspect about the threat level for the U.S. The risk assessment on the CDC website still says the "immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low" for the average American, though it **warns that a global "pandemic" declaration** could shift the forecast. The World Health Organization on Monday declined to declare a pandemic but cautioned that it may reverse that decision as more information arrives.

Hospitals have begun stockpiling resources in case the threat worsens, and [K-12 schools in the U.S. are sending home letters to parents](#) urging frequent hand-washing and keeping sick children home from school until they're fever-free for 24 hours without medication. Several schools have also canceled field trips to China as well as Chinese exchange programs.

Steps Schools Can Take

During past outbreaks like the "swine flu" of 2009, the CDC asked AASA, the School Superintendents Association, to assist in spreading the word to school districts, according to Dan Domenech, the association's executive director. The association is preparing to answer that request from the CDC as soon as it comes in, Domenech said.

The first step schools should consider, Domenech said, is establishing a process for determining whether students are contracting the virus and a system for reporting updates to health officials.

“If it’s serious enough to close schools, we have something today we didn’t have back then: We have the technology that does allow students to be able to stay home and do work online,” Domenech said.

Earlier this month, the heads of the two national teachers’ unions called on the Trump administration to provide more direct guidance to schools on how to respond to the virus’ growing threat.

Students in Rensselaer Central Schools in Indiana got an early preview of sorts for the district’s response to a widespread infection. The week of Jan. 20, an outbreak of flu sent absentee rates in the district’s middle and high schools soaring above 20 percent. Before health officials could formally request a shutdown, the district closed Thursday and Friday of that week, according to Curtis Craig, superintendent of schools.

The district had previously been deploying e-learning in the event of inclement weather. Craig said the biggest key to success in unexpected e-learning situations is to have adequately prepared students and teachers prior to the emergency.

“If you can run the kids through some online practice while they’re here at school, it’s much much better. If online isn’t completely different than what they’re doing in school, that’s even better,” Craig said. “If the kids are used to going to a student management system to go online to submit their assignments, submitting their assignments online, then it’s not a completely different experience for them.”

It won’t be possible to pre-empt or even alleviate illness-related anxiety, Craig says. His team saw concerns about the local flu outbreak bubbling up on social media shortly before the decision to close for two days.

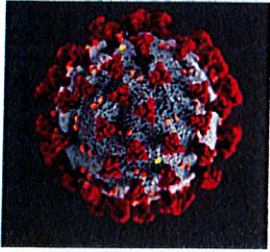
“It very may well have caused our absence rate because people saw that and thought, since the school’s sending this, it must be bad,” Craig said.

“In the longer term, we want people to look to the school sites for accuracy and information,” he continued. “I guess I would rather have that increase of people being cautious, and for them to know that the school is going to put out accurate information for them, and the parents can decide.”

This story was updated to reflect additional response from federal officials.

Web Only

2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) information sheet



Coronavirus is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Symptoms include fever, cough and trouble breathing or shortness of breath. Thousands of cases have been confirmed in China and new cases have been diagnosed in a number of countries, including the U.S.

How it spreads

- Probably through coughs and sneezes, especially when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby or be inhaled into the lungs.
- The disease may spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes with unwashed hands.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. At this time, diagnostic testing for coronavirus can be conducted only by the CDC.

Preventing the spread of coronavirus

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Steps school districts can take

School districts that believe there is a threat of coronavirus can do the following:

- Divide students into smaller instructional groups
- Prohibit symptomatic students from attending school
- Close school buildings
- Use internet-based distance learning in lieu of holding classes
- Postpone/cancel field trips
- Limit mass gatherings of students

Steps individuals can take

Students, staff and school visitors can take the following precautions if they have symptoms of the virus or know someone who has symptoms:

- Stay home, except to get medical care
- Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing or taxis

- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home
- Wear a facemask, if you have symptoms
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and discard used tissues in a lined trash can.



- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing personal household items, such as dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home.
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day, including counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.
- Monitor symptoms and seek medical attention if they worsen

Check the CDC website regularly for more information.

*Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
NYS Health Department*

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary

This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated information as it becomes available, in addition to updated guidance.

Updated February 25, 2020

Background

CDC is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which has now been detected in 37 locations internationally, including cases in the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “[public health emergency of international concern](#)” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

Source and Spread of the Virus

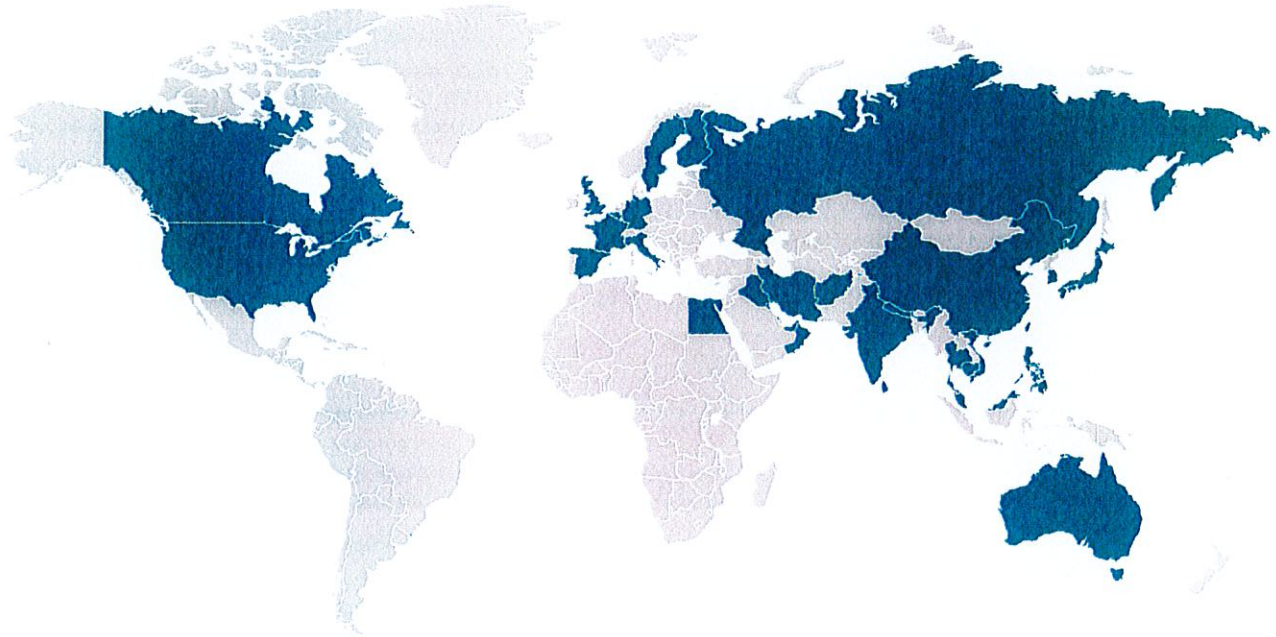
Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with [MERS-CoV](#), [SARS-CoV](#), and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2).

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of these viruses have their origins in bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one that China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

Early on, many of the patients in the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Person-to-person spread has been reported outside China, including in the [United States](#) and [other locations](#). Chinese officials report that sustained person-to-person spread in the community is occurring in China. In addition, [other destinations have apparent community spread](#), meaning some people have been infected who are not sure how or where they became infected. Learn what is known about the [spread of newly emerged coronaviruses](#).

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Global Map

[View larger image and see a list of locations](#)
[COVID-19 confirmed cases in the U.S.](#)



Situation in U.S.

Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been [detected in the U.S.](#) Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 also has been seen among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan, but at this time, this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States.

Illness Severity

Both MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV have been known to cause severe illness in people. The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully understood. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including illness resulting in death. Learn more about the [symptoms associated with COVID-19](#).

There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

Risk Assessment

Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads between people, the severity of resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine or treatment medications). The fact that this disease has caused illness, including illness resulting in death, and sustained person-to-person spread is concerning. These factors meet two of the criteria of a pandemic. As community spread is detected in more and more countries, the world moves closer toward meeting the third criteria, worldwide spread of the new virus.

The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is high, both globally and to the United States.

But individual risk is dependent on exposure.

- For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.
- Under current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 and other close contacts of persons with COVID-19. CDC has developed [guidance to help in the risk assessment and management](#) of people with potential exposures to COVID-19.

However, it's important to note that current global circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a [pandemic](#). In that case, the risk assessment would be different.

What May Happen

More cases are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States. It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including in the United States. Widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time. Schools, childcare centers, workplaces, and other places for mass gatherings may experience more absenteeism. Public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded, with elevated rates of hospitalizations and deaths. Other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and transportation industry may also be affected. Health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed. At this time, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it. [Nonpharmaceutical interventions](#) would be the most important response strategy.

CDC Response

Global efforts at this time are focused concurrently on containing spread of this virus and mitigating the impact of this virus. The federal government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this public health threat. The public health response is multi-layered, with the goal of detecting and minimizing introductions of this virus in the United States so as to reduce the spread and the impact of this virus. CDC is operationalizing all of its pandemic preparedness and response plans, working on multiple fronts to meet these goals, including

specific measures to [prepare communities](#) to respond local transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. There is an abundance of [pandemic guidance](#) developed in anticipation of an influenza pandemic that is being repurposed and adapted for a COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights of CDC's Response

- CDC established a COVID-19 Incident Management System on January 7, 2020. On January 21, CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to better provide ongoing support to the COVID-19 response.
- The U.S. government has taken unprecedented steps with respect to **travel** in response to the growing public health threat posed by this new coronavirus:
 - Effective February 2, at 5pm, the U.S. government suspended entry of foreign nationals who have been in China within the past 14 days.
 - U.S. citizens, residents, and their immediate family members who have been in Hubei province and other parts of mainland China are allowed to enter the United States, but they are subject to health monitoring and possible quarantine for up to 14 days.
 - CDC has issued the following travel guidance related to COVID-19:
 - [China — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 22;
 - [South Korea — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 24;
 - [Japan — Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) — updated February 22;
 - [Iran — Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) — issued February 23;
 - [Italy — Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) — issued February 23;
 - [Hong Kong — Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions](#) — issued February 19.
 - CDC also recommends that [all travelers reconsider cruise ship voyages into or within Asia](#) at this time.
- CDC is issuing clinical guidance, including:
 - An [interim Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Update](#) to inform state and local health departments and healthcare professionals about this outbreak on February 1.
 - On January 30, CDC published [guidance for healthcare professionals on the clinical care of COVID-19 patients](#).
 - On February 3, CDC posted [guidance for assessing the potential risk for various exposures](#) to COVID-19 and managing those people appropriately.
- CDC has deployed multidisciplinary teams to support state health departments with clinical management, contact tracing, and communications.

CDC has worked with the Department of State, supporting the safe return of Americans who have been stranded as a result of the ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19 and related travel restrictions. CDC has worked to assess the health of passengers as they return to the United States and provided continued daily monitoring of people who are quarantined.



This is a picture of CDC's laboratory test kit for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). CDC is shipping the test kits to laboratories CDC has designated as qualified, including U.S. state and local public health laboratories, Department of Defense (DOD) laboratories and select international laboratories. The test kits are bolstering global laboratory capacity for detecting SARS-CoV-2.

- CDC laboratories have supported the COVID-19 response, including:
 - CDC has developed a real time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) test that can diagnose COVID-19 in respiratory samples from clinical specimens. On January 24, CDC [publicly posted the assay protocol](#) for this test.
 - CDC has been uploading the entire genome of the viruses from reported cases in the United States to GenBank as sequencing was completed.
 - [CDC has grown the COVID-19 virus in cell culture](#), which is necessary for further studies, including for additional genetic characterization. The cell-grown virus was sent to NIH's [BEI Resources Repository](#) external icon for use by the broad scientific community.

CDC Recommends

- While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat:
 - It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.
 - If you are a healthcare provider, be on the look-out for people who recently traveled from China and have fever and respiratory symptoms.
 - If you are a healthcare provider caring for a COVID-19 patient or a public health responder, please take care of yourself and follow recommended infection control procedures.
 - If you have been in China or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face some limitations on your movement and activity. Please follow instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health

response to try to slow spread of this virus. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider, and tell them about your symptoms and your travel or exposure to a COVID-19 patient.

- For people who are ill with COVID-19, please follow [CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others](#).

Other Available Resources

The following resources are available with information on COVID-19

- [U.S. Department of State China Travel Advisory](#)
- [World Health Organization, Coronavirus](#)

NYS DOH

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Novel Coronavirus Hotline

Call 1-888-364-3065 for Information about Coronavirus

- Also available in: [Chinese](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Korean](#)

available in: [English](#), [Cantonese](#), [Mandarin](#), [Korean](#)

Recently, a new coronavirus - 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus - was detected in China that has not been previously found in humans. This coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and shortness of breath. There are thousands of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside of Wuhan and additional cases being identified in a growing number of countries internationally, including the United States. There are ongoing investigations to learn more about this virus. No one has been diagnosed with this new coronavirus in New York State.

Individuals who are experiencing symptoms and may have traveled to areas of concern, or have been in contact with somebody who has traveled to these areas, should call ahead to their health care provider before seeking treatment in person.

The 2019 novel coronavirus is a new virus and shouldn't be confused with other coronaviruses that have been around for many years causing upper respiratory symptoms, like the common cold. If a routine test ordered by your health care provider and done at a local hospital or lab, is positive for coronavirus, that means that you have one of the common coronaviruses. The only way to test for 2019 novel coronavirus is through specialized testing at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If you are unsure which kind of virus you are being tested for or what the result means, be sure to ask your health care provider. This is a rapidly changing situation. Please regularly check this site and the [CDC's Novel Coronavirus webpage](#) for updates.

Data last updated February 25, 2020			
Test Results	New York State (Outside of NYC)	New York City (NYC)	Total Persons Under Investigation (PUI)
Positive Cases	0	0	27
Negative Results	20	6	
Pending Test Results	1	0	

- [Health Care Providers: Click for more Information](#)

Important Health Information For Those Who Have Recently Traveled to China

If you recently traveled to China and feel sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others. Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
- Avoid further travel until the illness resolves.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Symptoms

The 2019 novel coronavirus may cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like:

- cough
- fever
- trouble breathing and
- pneumonia

CDC believes at this time that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus.

How Does Novel Coronavirus Spread?

Most of the early reported cases had contact with a seafood and live animal market, suggesting an animal source of the outbreak. However, most cases are now likely to be spread from person to person by droplets when coughing. Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads.

Prevention

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent this virus, these simple steps can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.