

Situation Report: 2019-Novel Coronavirus

Situation Report:	#1
Date of Issue:	2/7/2020
Time Issued:	1300 hours
Prepared By:	John Sherrard – Emergency Preparedness Supervisor
Approved By:	Greg Kesterman – Interim Health Commissioner
Sent to:	Southwest Ohio Regional public health departments, Hamilton County EMHSA and the Greater Cincinnati Disaster Preparedness Coalition

Current Situation:

Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization are closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed “2019-nCoV”) first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019 and which continues to expand.

Current HCPH Updates:

- HCPH has been participating in daily statewide ODH conference calls since 1/28/2020.
- During the week of February 10th, ODH 2019-nCov conference calls will take place on Tuesday and Thursday.
- On 1/30/2020, HCPH participated in a Southwest Ohio Public Health Regional conference call to discuss 2019-nCov.
- On 2/5/2020, HCPH sent out a public health advisory to its preparedness partners, such as long term care facilities, nursing homes, hospice facilities, skilled nursing, fire and police chiefs, school principals and administrators, point of dispensing managers, hospitals (via The Health Collaborative) and Hamilton County business partners (via Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency [EMHSA])
- On 2/6/2020, HCPH participated in an ODH conference call with statewide Emergency Response Coordinators and Regional Public Health Coordinators.
- On 2/6/2020, HCPH participated in an ODH conference call with statewide public information officers to discuss communication strategies and outreach.
- HCPH will continue to coordinate efforts with ODH and CDC.
- HCPH’s incident management team meets following the daily ODH conference calls. The incident management team includes the Interim Health Commissioner, Assistant Health Commissioner, Director of Nursing, Director of Epidemiology, Senior Epidemiologist, Public Information Officer and the Emergency Response Coordinator.
- HCPH added 2019-nCov information to its [website](#). HCPH will continue updating its website biweekly and more frequently as needed with current information.



- In preparation for a “Person Under Investigation (PUI)”, HCPH updated its “Instructions for Respiratory Isolation in the Home” guidance document.
- HCPH provided input in getting a document formally adopted and released by ODH to provide “Guidance for Public Safety Answering Points and Dispatch Centers”.
- HCPH continues to monitor all sources (ODH, CDC, WHO, etc.) for the latest information.
- HCPH is reminding everyone that currently ~99% all cases are in China and the remaining cases are spread over 24 other countries.
- HCPH continues to respond to all media requests.
- HCPH continues to monitor the need for opening an informational hotline if needed.
- HCPH will share the situational report with other regional local health departments, Hamilton County EMHSA and the Greater Cincinnati Healthcare Coalition.
- HCPH will release its next Situation Report on February 14th.

CDC Update (Situation in the US):

CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus named [2019-nCoV](#). The outbreak first started in Wuhan, China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other [international locations](#), including the United States. The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread with this virus on January 30, 2020.

CDC 2019-nCov Statistics:

Worldwide Confirmed Cases: 31,528

Worldwide Deaths: 638

U.S. Confirmed Cases: 12

U.S. Deaths: 0

U.S. Person(s) Under Investigation: 100

States with Person(s) Under Investigation: 36

CDC Response Updates:

- Outbreaks of novel viral infections among people are always of public health concern, and older adults and people with underlying health conditions may be at increased risk. Public health experts are still learning about the severity of 2019-nCoV. An understanding of the key attributes of this novel virus, including its transmission dynamics, incubation period, and severity, is critical to assessing the risk it poses to the American public. Nonetheless, the CDC has determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat
- The goal of the ongoing U.S. public health response is to contain this outbreak and prevent sustained spread of 2019-nCov in this country.
- 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.



- On Friday, January 31, 2020, 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.
- See more at: [“Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus”](#).
- CDC submitted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) package to the U.S. Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) on February 3, 2020.
- On February 4, 2020, the FDA approved an EUA for a test from the CDC for 2019-nCoV. The EUA allows the test to be used at all CDC-qualified labs. The CDC will initially distribute 200 test kits to U.S. domestic laboratories and 200 to selected international labs. Each test kit will have enough reagents to test about 700 to 800 patients.

World Health Organization Update:

- On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.
- WHO has developed a [dashboard](#) for 2019-nCoV with the number of confirmed cases globally, which includes cases in China by provinces, regions and cities, as well as confirmed cases outside China by country.
- Working with technical experts in health operations, WHO operational support and logistics has developed a “2019-nCoV kit”, similar to prepared treatment kits used for outbreaks of other high threat pathogens. In the coming days, the costing, procurement and assembly of these kits will be a priority.
- The business sector is one audience to whom EPI-WIN is reaching out with tailored information. EPI-WIN colleagues co-hosted a call with a global communications firm whose clients include large multinationals. Over 50 multinationals were represented on the call, where WHO provided an update of the 2019-nCoV situation and responded to questions about improving communications with employees; the role of businesses in public health crises; and managing uncertainty through accessing accurate information.

Ohio Department of Health Update:

- ODH continues to hold state-wide calls to share information with local health departments and other response organizations.
- There are no confirmed cases in Ohio.
- Communication will remain key with 2019-nCoV; ODH will remain available 24/7.
- CDC continues to emphasize person-to-person spread has occurred under close contact with infected individuals; there is no community spread.
- CDC is taking cautious approach with personal protective equipment recommendations. Currently, CDC is recommending full precautions for healthcare workers.
- Healthcare workers caring for confirmed cases may have risk. However, risk to the public is low.



- Local health departments should track their time and effort during the response.
- ODH continues to update 2019-nCoV information on website and OPHCS. Recent material on the ODH website and OPHCS includes:
 - Isolation and Quarantine guidance
 - HIPAA Privacy and Novel Coronavirus
 - 2019 Novel Coronavirus Talking Points for K-12 School Nurses & Administrators
 - 14 day End of Monitoring Letter Template
 - Employer Template Letter

Ohio 2019-nCov Statistics:

Ohio Confirmed Cases: 0

Ohio Deaths: 0

Ohio Person(s) Under Investigation: 1

Relevant Resources:

- [Ohio Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- Ohio Sentry: [Novel Coronavirus Mobile Monitoring](#)
- Ohio Sentry: [Novel Coronavirus Hub Site \(desktop\)](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation \(PUI\) for 2019-nCov](#)

Healthcare Update:

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:

For everyone: It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting vaccinated, taking [everyday preventive actions](#) to stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.

- 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 cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For healthcare professionals:

- Be on the lookout for people with travel history to China and fever and respiratory symptoms.



- If you are a healthcare professional caring for a 2019-nCoV patient, please take care of yourself and follow [recommended infection control procedures](#).

Facts about 2019-nCoV:

What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus strain, identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread, such as was seen with Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2014 and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and is now being seen with 2019-nCoV.

Why the concern?

2019-nCoV has only been identified in humans since December 2019. Health experts are still learning its characteristics. They are concerned because it has the potential to cause severe respiratory illness in some people and, because it is new and not predictable like the flu. There is no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV and no specific antiviral treatment.

What is the source of 2019-nCoV?

2019-nCoV likely came from an animal because the first cases were linked to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting a possible zoonotic origin to the outbreak. However, more information is needed to figure out the possible role that animals play in transmission of 2019-nCoV.

How does 2019-nCoV spread and what are the symptoms?

The novel coronavirus is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, which means to become infected, people generally must be within 6 feet of someone who is contagious and come into contact with these droplets. Symptoms of 2019-nCoV appear within two to 14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Reported cases have ranged from mild illness (similar to a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires hospitalization.

How can I prevent it?

Currently, there are no vaccines available to prevent 2019-nCoV infections. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) recommends typical infectious disease precautions, just as those used to prevent cold or flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Cover coughs/sneezes with your arm or a tissue.
- Avoid exposure to others who are sick.
- Stay home you are ill (except to visit a health care professional) and avoid close contact with others.
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC does not routinely recommend the use of face masks by the public to prevent respiratory illness and is not recommending their use at this time for the prevention of 2019-nCoV.



How high is my risk of catching 2019-nCoV?

At this time, the virus is not spreading in U.S. communities, and **the CDC considers risk to the general public low**. The greater risk is for people who have recently traveled to China or their close contacts. It is far more likely that Ohioans will contract flu than 2019-nCoV. The CDC estimates that there have been between 10,000 and 25,000 U.S. deaths from flu this season. **There have been no confirmed U.S. deaths due to 2019-nCoV**. A flu shot is recommended for Ohioans 6-months-old and older who have not yet received one this season; however, the flu vaccine does not protect against 2019-nCoV.

Have there been cases of 2019-nCoV in the United States?

The CDC has confirmed a handful of 2019-nCoV cases in the U.S. For current numbers and a map of states with confirmed 2019-nCoV cases, please visit the CDC website [here](#).

What about Ohio?

There are no confirmed cases in Ohio. For current numbers on people tested for the virus here, please visit the ODH main coronavirus webpage at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/welcome/>. ODH, in coordination with the CDC and local partners, is closely monitoring the outbreak caused by 2019-nCoV. ODH has issued health alerts, and Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of ODH, has declared 2019-nCoV a Class A reportable infectious disease, meaning any possible case must be reported immediately to a local health district, which will report it to ODH. It will then be reported to the CDC, where laboratory testing for the virus can take place. ODH, with local health departments and health care providers, actively works 24/7 to monitor, prevent, and control all infectious diseases.

How is 2019-nCoV treated?

There are no medications specifically approved for 2019-nCoV. Most people with mild coronavirus illnesses will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications.

However, some people develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization.

What if I recently traveled to China?

If you have been in mainland China anytime in the previous 14 days, you should:

- Remain at home or in a comparable setting for 14 days after your arrival to the U.S.
- Monitor yourself for fever and remain alert for cough or difficulty breathing.
- If you develop symptoms, seek advice by telephone from a health care provider or your local health department to determine whether medical evaluation is needed.

What if I recently had contact with a person under investigation for or confirmed to have 2019-nCoV?

CDC guidelines for people with possible or confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV and people in close contact with them can be found [here](#).

Can I still travel to China or countries where 2019-nCoV cases have occurred?

The U.S. State Department has issued a [Level 4 Travel Advisory](#), recommending against travel to China. The CDC recommends avoiding all nonessential travel to the country. If you are traveling overseas (to China but also to other places), follow the CDC's traveler's health guidance [here](#).



What is happening at U.S. airports?

Details about what to expect at the airport for travelers arriving to the U.S. from China can be found [here](#). As of Sunday, February 2, 2020, all flights and travelers from China are being routed to 11 airports, none in Ohio.

U.S. citizens returning to the U.S. who have been in Hubei Province in the previous two weeks are subject to screening and up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine. U.S. citizens returning to the United States who have been to other parts of mainland China within the previous two weeks are subject to screening and up to 14 days of monitored self-quarantine.

Foreign citizens who have been to China in the previous two weeks are being denied entry to the U.S., with the exception of immediate family members of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crews.

