

About the recent outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus

2019-nCoV



CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed “2019-nCoV”) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand to other countries including the U.S. As of today, there are 110 Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) in 26 states, including 5 confirmed cases (1 in Washington, 1 in Illinois, 2 in California and 1 in Arizona. All had travel histories from Wuhan. Screenings are now being conducted at five major U.S. airports, including Chicago O’Hare, to identify people exhibiting symptoms. **At present, risk to the general public is considered low.** The numbers of PUIs and positive cases are expected to increase. Cook County Department of Public Health officials are working with medical providers and local, state and federal partners to quickly identify suspect cases, share situational awareness and provide guidance to travelers and the public, on this rapidly evolving investigation.

What are Coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that includes MERS Co-V and SARS-CoV, with several causing common cold. Some circulate in animals. MERS-CoV was first recognized in 2012 and caused 2,494 cases, 858 deaths. SARS-CoV was first recognized in 2003 and caused 8,098 cases, 774 deaths. The recent cases of 2019-nCoV were probably zoonotic at the outset but are now confirmed to be able to spread person-to-person. Common human coronaviruses usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold. These illnesses usually only last for a short amount of time.

What CCDPH is doing

- Coordinating with local health and emergency response partners, Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Public Health and CDC regarding suspect cases, situational awareness, and guidance for healthcare providers, travelers and the public.
- Identifying and monitoring all contacts of the known Chicago case for 14 days and arranging evaluations and testing if they become ill, to contain transmission.
- Taking calls to Communicable Disease Unit 24/7. Visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org/contact-us/ for info.
- Making determinations as to whether people fit definition of “persons under investigation” or PUIs.
- Advising hospitals about what specimens to collect.
- Sharing information with public, partners and staff via email, website and social media.

What you can do

- This is a rapidly evolving situation. Stay informed. Visit CDC, IDPH, WHO websites (see below) and listen to the news.
- Practice the 3 C’s:
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with elbow or tissue
 - Clean hands frequently with warm water and soap
 - Contain your germs by staying home when sick
- Follow us on social media (www.facebook.com/ccdph, www.twitter.com/cookcohealth).
- If you’ve traveled to Wuhan City in the last 14 days watch for flu-like symptoms. If you have symptoms, contact your healthcare provider.

For more information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html)



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