



2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Speaking Points

January 22, 2020

Current Situation

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (nCoV) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This outbreak began in early December 2019 and continues to expand in China and other countries.
- CDC has been proactively preparing for the introduction of 2019-nCoV in the United States for weeks, including first alerting clinicians on January 8, 2020 and then again on January 17, 2020, to be on the look-out for patients with respiratory symptoms and a history of travel to Wuhan City.
- NO CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN UTAH.
- The [first case in the United States](#) was announced on January 21, 2020 in Washington State. The patient had recently traveled to Wuhan. Precautions have been taken to prevent further exposures to this patient and an investigation is underway to trace close contacts of the patient to determine if others might have become infected.
- While this is a worrisome public health situation, CDC believes that the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is low.
- Investigations are ongoing to learn more.

Prevention Efforts

- Travelers to Wuhan should:
 - Avoid contact with sick people.
 - Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Older travelers and those with underlying health issues may be at risk for more severe disease and should discuss travel to Wuhan with their healthcare provider.
- If you traveled to Wuhan and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing:
 - Seek medical care immediately. Call ahead before going to see a doctor or emergency room and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
 - Avoid contact with others.
 - Avoid travel while sick.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Utah Public Health Efforts

- The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is working with local health departments and the CDC to monitor the outbreak.
 - Public health partners include a variety of private and public professionals (hospitals, public and private laboratories, emergency departments, urgent care facilities, community health centers), emergency management teams, airport personnel, etc.
 - Healthcare professionals and anyone with knowledge of a suspected case should report this immediately to your local health department or the UDOH at 1-888-EPI-UTAH.
- The UDOH activated an Incident Command System (ICS) to better collaborate with our public health partners.
 - ICS is a coordinated approach to incident management with multiple agencies and partners that can apply to incidents or emergencies of all types and sizes.
- The UDOH distributed clinical recommendations to healthcare providers.
- The UDOH will actively track cases as they occur in Utah and will reach out to local health departments and clinicians for assistance to determine the scope of this outbreak and work to provide technical assistance as necessary. To date, no cases have been reported in Utah.
- The UDOH will update the general public about new information as it becomes available through social media sites and news releases as necessary.
- This is a fluid situation and information may change rapidly.

National Public Health Efforts

- The CDC has been alerting travelers to the situation in Wuhan and providing travel advice.
- On January 21, 2020, the CDC updated its interim travel health notice for this destination to provide information to people who may be traveling to Wuhan City and who may get sick. The travel notice was raised from Level 1: Practice Usual Precautions, to a Level 2: Practice Enhanced Precautions advising travelers that preliminary information suggests older adults with underlying health conditions may be at increased risk for severe disease.
- The CDC implemented public health entry screening at San Francisco (SFO), New York (JFK), and Los Angeles (LAX), Atlanta (ATL) and Chicago (ORD) airports. All travelers from Wuhan, China will be funneled to the five airports conducting entry health screening.
- CDC issued an updated health alert to clinicians.
- Public health entry screening is part of a layered approach that, when used with other public health measures already in place to detect ill arriving travelers, can slow and reduce the spread of disease into the United States.
- Public health entry screening alone is not a guarantee against the possible importation of this new virus, but is an important public health tool during this period of uncertainty and part of a multilayered response strategy.

Disease, Testing and Treatment Information

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others circulating among animals including camels, cats and bats.
- There are several known coronaviruses that infect people and usually only cause mild respiratory disease, such as the common cold. However, at least two previously identified coronaviruses have caused severe disease — severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV have been ruled out as the cause of the current outbreak.
- While originally thought to spread from animal to person, recently, there have been growing indications that limited person-to-person spread is occurring.
- The infectious period for this virus is unknown. Based on other coronaviruses, people infected with 2019-nCoV should be considered to be contagious from the day of fever onset until 10 days after fever ends.
- Coronaviruses typically have an incubation period of 2–14 days after exposure. The specific incubation period for this coronavirus is unknown.
- Your healthcare provider may order laboratory tests on respiratory specimens and serum (part of your blood) to detect human coronaviruses.
- There are no specific treatments for illnesses caused by human coronaviruses. Most people with common human coronavirus illness will recover on their own. However, you can do some things to relieve your symptoms:
 - take pain and fever medications (Caution: do not give Aspirin to children), and
 - use a room humidifier or take a hot shower to help ease a sore throat and cough.
- If you are mildly sick:
 - drink plenty of liquids, and
 - stay home and rest.
- If you are concerned about your symptoms, contact your healthcare provider.

Resources

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Travelers' Health](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[World Health Organization - China](#)