



West Windsor Township

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES Division of Health

Public Health Update

2019 Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-2019)

February 26, 2020

West Windsor Health Department is closely monitoring the expanding global outbreak of COVID-19 and has implemented recommended public health interventions at the local level to help minimize the impact in our communities. At this time, the current risk to the general public in New Jersey from COVID-19 remains low with no local cases. However, the expanding spread of disease in other counties is concerning and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that individuals and organizations prepare for the potential increased threat to public health in the United States. It is important to understand that the situation is continuously evolving and as new information becomes available, the public health guidance will change to reflect the most current recommendations.

The public health response is multi-layered, with the goal of detecting and minimizing introduction of this virus in the U.S. so as to reduce the spread and impact of this virus. The CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) provide ongoing technical expertise, consultations and guidance to combat the threats COVID-19 poses for our communities. West Windsor Health Department works closely with our partners for a coordinated response and to implement local interventions. Our response, outreach and preparedness efforts are ongoing.

Over the past few weeks, our office has taken the following steps to protect the public:

- Contacted travelers returning from affected areas to conduct risk assessments and conducted monitoring for a 14 day period following arrival in the U.S. This facet of the response is conducted with strict adherence to protocols established by CDC and NJDOH.
- Coordinated with school administrations and school nurses to review guidance materials and response activities.
- Consulted with medical professionals upon request. The Department has responded 24/7 and will maintain availability.
- Shared guidance and preparedness materials with public health partners within the community such as first responders, urgent care centers, childcare facilities and faith based organizations.

- Provided presentations to community groups on COVID-19 to increase awareness, promote prevention, discourage stigmatization and encourage preparedness.
- Enhanced departmental preparedness through trainings, cross-trainings, internal meetings and review of pandemic preparedness plans.
- Responded to unique concerns from residents, businesses and community organizations.

Families and organizations are encouraged to:

- Remain up-to-date on current status and recommendations throughout the course of the outbreak. Links to the CDC and NJDOH websites are available on the *Health News* tab on the Township website at www.westwindsornj.org
- Monitor travel restrictions if you are planning a trip abroad. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>
- If you have recently traveled to an affected region, follow public health restrictions and guidance upon your return.
- If you have traveled within 14 days and feel ill, contact your healthcare provider by telephone and report your recent travel and symptoms prior to seeking care.
- Ensure that everyone in the family has had a flu shot.
- Review your family or organizational preparedness plans. CDC is expected to post updated toolkits soon and links will be posted to the Township website.

Additional public health interventions may be necessary in some circumstances; however, individuals can help prevent the spread of COVID-2019 and other diseases by practicing basic infection control on a daily basis.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissues after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Stay home when you are sick.

The Department is committed to helping to prevent the spread of this disease by implementing recommended public health controls and linking residents to information. For the most up-to-date and credible information, please monitor the websites listed below or call the NJDOH COVID-19 Hotline, 24/7, at 1-800-222-1222.

www.CDC.gov

www.nj.gov/health

www.westwindsornj.org

The West Windsor Health Department can be reached at 609-936-8400 for additional information.