



West Windsor Township

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Health

Public Health Notice

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan China

January 22, 2020

This public health notice is being issued in response to general inquiries received by the local health department. An outbreak of a novel (new) corona virus in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China is being monitored by health officials worldwide. On January 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the United States in a traveler returning from Wuhan. Officials are actively screening for signs of illness in travelers returning to U.S. airports from the Wuhan area.

It is important for the general public to understand that outbreaks involving novel viruses evolve quickly and guidance recommendations from public health officials may change as the investigation continues into the nature of this virus. Please check the websites below regularly for updates on this outbreak.

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which include some that cause human illnesses and others that cause illnesses in certain species of animals. It is not an uncommon event for a person to be diagnosed with a mild respiratory tract illness caused by known human coronavirus during late fall or winter. However, public health concern arises when a new or “novel” form of a coronavirus, previously known to only cause illness in animals, begins to cause illness in humans. Reports of outbreaks involving novel coronaviruses trigger immediate public health investigations and interventions.

Individuals can help prevent the spread of illness by taking the following steps.

- If you are planning to travel, research health issues associated with your destination before you travel. Explore the CDC Travelers' Health website and learn how to stay healthy during your trip and prevent the spreading of illness to others upon your return. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and throw away tissues.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Please continue to monitor the CDC website for up to date information and recommendations regarding this outbreak. West Windsor Health Department can be reached at 609-936-8400 for additional information.