

**CDC Daily Key Points  
2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

**February 7, 2020**

**MAIN KEY POINTS**

- There is an expanding outbreak of respiratory illness centered in China caused by a novel (new) coronavirus abbreviated “2019-nCoV.”
- This virus is able to spread from person-to-person and cause severe disease and death.
- The potential global public health threat posed by this virus is high, but right now, the immediate risk to most Americans is low.
- Most cases are still limited to mainland China.
- Right now, this virus is not spreading in the community in the United States and the vast majority of Americans have a low risk of exposure. The greater risk is for people who have recently traveled to China or their close contacts.
- This is a rapidly evolving situation and the risk assessment for Americans may change.
- The federal government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners to respond to this public health threat.
- The public health response is multi-layered, with the goal of detecting and minimizing introductions of this virus in the United States so as to reduce the spread and the impact of this virus.
- Strategies are in place to reduce the number of travelers from China and screen the remaining travelers from that country for illness, with people potentially being subject to a 14-day quarantine.
- These measures are likely to cause some disruption.
- The U.S. public health system also is on high alert to detect cases of 2019-nCoV infection and prevent further spread in the community.
- The success of response efforts now will determine what the coming days, weeks, and months will bring here in the United States.
- While leaning forward aggressively with the hope that we will be able to prevent community spread, we also are preparing for the worst.
- The current outbreak meets two criteria for a pandemic. It is a new virus and it is capable of person-to-person spread.
- Extensive work has been done over the past 15 years to prepare for an influenza pandemic.
- Influenza pandemic preparedness platforms and plans would be appropriate in the event that the current 2019-nCoV outbreak triggers a pandemic.
- Public health partners are encouraged to review their pandemic preparedness plans. Selected materials are available from [www.cdc.gov/ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/ncov).

**SITUATION UPDATE**

- To date, 27 international locations (in addition to the U.S.) have reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV infection.
- As of February 6, 2020, at 7 pm, 12 infections with 2019-nCoV have been reported in the U.S. in six states — Arizona, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Washington, and Wisconsin.
  - To date, there have been 337 “persons under investigation” (PUIs) for possible 2019-nCoV infection reported to CDC, with 225 persons ruled

- out as negative. These data are updated regularly at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.
- As part of efforts to detect cases of 2019-nCoV in the United States, CDC's laboratory had tested more than 2,000 samples as of February 6, 2020.
  - Two instances of person-to-person spread with this virus in the United States have been detected, in both cases after close, prolonged contact with a returned traveler from Wuhan.
  - CDC established a 2019-nCoV Incident Management System on January 7, 2020. On January 21, 2020, CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to better provide ongoing support to the 2019-nCoV response.
    - As of February 7, 2020, more than 800 CDC staff members had been deployed to the 2019-nCoV Response.
  - The CDC-established [International Reagent Resource \(IRR\)](#) is taking orders for real time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) tests that can diagnose 2019-nCoV in respiratory and serum samples from clinical specimens.
    - As of February 6, 2020, test kits had been sent to 33 states and 70 labs in 66 countries.
  - On February 1, 2020, CDC issued a [Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#) update with some updates to previously posted guidance and, for the first time, guidance on clinical care of 2019-nCoV patients.
  - On February 3, CDC issued "[Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) Exposure in Travel-associated or Community Settings](#)" to provide U.S. public health authorities and other partners with a framework for assessing and managing risk of potential exposures to 2019-nCoV and implementing public health actions based on a person's risk level and clinical presentation.
  - CDC isolated the virus and sent it to the NIH's [BEI Resources Repository](#) for use by the broad scientific community.
  - CDC is uploading the full genetic sequence of viruses from all U.S. patients into GenBank as they become available.
  - CDC is working with state and local health departments on investigations to trace contacts of the U.S. 2019-nCoV patients to detect person-to-person spread.
  - Also, on February 6, 2020, CDC and Customs and Border (CBP) personnel had screened about 20,000 people with recent travel history to China at U.S. airports.
  - CDC is preparing senior staff to support the WHO international senior technical mission being formed to work with Chinese public health counterparts to help improve understanding of this new disease, including learning more about transmissibility and severity.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- 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:
  - It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.
  - If you are a healthcare provider, be on the look-out for people who recently traveled from China and who have fever and respiratory symptoms.
  - If you are a healthcare provider caring for a 2019-nCoV patient or a public health responder, please take care of yourself and follow recommended infection control procedures.
  - For people who have had close contact with someone infected with 2019-nCoV who develop symptoms, contact your healthcare provider, and tell them about your symptoms and your exposure to a 2019-nCoV patient.
  - For people who are ill with 2019-nCoV, please follow CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others. This guidance is on the CDC website.

## **TRAVEL**

- On January 31, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a [public health emergency](#) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to 2019 novel coronavirus.
- Also on January 31, the President of the United States issued a "[Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)". The declaration became effective beginning 5 p.m. EST, Sunday, February 2, 2020.
  - Foreign nationals who have visited China in the past 14 days may not enter the United States.
  - Special precautions are required of U.S. citizens, immediate family members of U.S. citizens, and legal permanent residents entering the United States who have been in China during the past 14 days, including up to a 14-day quarantine.
- All American citizens and exempted persons coming from China will be directed to ("**funneled to**") one of 11 U.S. airports.
  - American citizens and exempted persons who have been in Hubei province in the previous 14 days will have an additional health assessment (screened for fever, cough, or difficulty breathing).
    - If symptomatic, American citizens and exempted persons will be transferred for further medical evaluation. (They will not be able to complete their itinerary.)
    - If asymptomatic, American citizens and exempted persons will be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine

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- at or near that location. (They will not be able to complete their itinerary.)
- American citizens and exempted persons who have been in other parts of mainland China (outside of Hubei Province) in the previous 14 days will have an additional health assessment (screened for fever, cough, or difficulty breathing).
    - If symptomatic, American citizens and exempted persons will be transferred for medical evaluation. (They will not be able to complete their itinerary at that time.)
    - If asymptomatic, American citizens and exempted persons will be allowed to reach their final destination and, after arrival, will be monitored under self-quarantine for 14 days.
  - CDC is working with public health partners to support the implementation of the travel policies detailed in the presidential proclamation (above).
  - On February 3, CDC issued “Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Exposure in Travel-associated or Community Settings” to provide U.S. public health authorities and other partners with a framework for assessing and managing risk of potential exposures to 2019-nCoV and implementing public health actions based on a person’s risk level and clinical presentation.

### **Repatriated Flights & Quarantine Orders**

- CDC supported the Department of State in the safe and expedient ordered departure of U.S. citizens and residents from Wuhan, China on five chartered flights.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary, under statutory authority, issued federal quarantine orders to all the passengers (891 people) entering the United States on these planes.
- The quarantine period is for 14 days, starting from the day the passengers left Wuhan, China.
- The quarantine is a precautionary and preventive step to maximize the containment of the virus in the interest of the health of the American public.
- This quarantine order also will protect the health of the repatriated persons, their families, and their communities.
- Medical staff will monitor the health of each traveler, including temperature checks and observation for respiratory symptoms.
- CDC will work with the state and local public health departments to transport any passenger exhibiting symptoms to a hospital for further evaluation.
- At the end of the 14-day period, people who have not developed symptoms will be free to leave.

For more information please visit the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Page at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.