

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Topline Key Points

January 28, 2020

### **MAIN KEY POINTS**

- There is an expanding outbreak in China of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus abbreviated "2019-nCoV."
- This virus is spreading from person-to-person in China and cases have been detected in a number of countries internationally, including the United States at this time.
- **In most instances, cases outside of China have been associated with travelers from China.**
- While there have been U.S. cases of 2019-nCoV, and it's possible that some person-to-person spread with this virus will happen in the U.S., 2019-nCoV is NOT spreading in the community in the United States at this time.
- This is a rapidly changing situation and we are still learning about 2019-nCoV.
- We are monitoring the situation closely and anticipate updating our recommendations and guidance as needed.
- Outbreaks like this – when a new virus is emerging to infect people – are always concerning. Some people might be worried about this virus and how it may impact Americans.
  - While this situation poses a very serious public health threat, CDC believes the immediate risk to the U.S. public is low at this time.
  - Risk also depends on exposure. People exposed to ill persons are at greater risk of infection. **(For example, healthcare workers and family members caring for people with 2019-CoV.)**
  - However, the situation is evolving, and risk will depend on how well the virus spreads and how sick it makes people.
- CDC has activated its Emergency Operations Center and begun using public health measures as part of an aggressive public health response strategy.
- The coming days and weeks are likely to bring more confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in the United States and globally, including some person-to-person spread in the United States, but the goal of the ongoing U.S. public health response is to contain this outbreak and prevent sustained spread of 2019-nCoV in this country.

### **SITUATION UPDATE**

- **CDC and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are continuing to conduct enhanced entry screening of passengers who have been in Wuhan within the past 14 days at 5 designated U.S. airports. Given travel out of Wuhan has been shut down, the number of passengers who meet this criteria is dwindling.**
- **Going forward, CBP officials will monitor for travelers with symptoms compatible with 2019-nCoV infection and a travel connection with China and will refer them to CDC staff for evaluation at all 20 U.S. quarantine stations.**
- **At the same time, ALL travelers from China will be given CDC's Travel Health Alert Notice, educating those travelers about what to do if they get sick with certain symptoms within 14 days after arriving in the United States.**
- **This strategy allows CDC to focus efforts on the rapid detection, isolation, and contact tracing of cases that are identified in the United States.**

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Key Points continued

- Being aware of people who are sick with this novel coronavirus, alerting travelers who may develop symptoms after arrival, and rapidly responding to any suspect 2019-nCoV illness will help CDC to more effectively protect the health and safety of travelers and the American public.
- As of January 28, 2020, 5 infections with 2019-nCoV have been reported in the U.S. in four states – Arizona, California, Illinois, and Washington.
- CDC will be reporting on PUIs (persons under investigation) on its website on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- CDC has uploaded the full genetic sequence of viruses from all 5 U.S. patients into GenBank.
- CDC will continue to lean forward on public health response efforts to protect Americans. We are working closely with state and local health departments and have teams on standby to deploy if needed. Our public health goal continues to be to protect the health of Americans by containing this outbreak.
- To date, 17 international locations (in addition to the U.S.) have reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV infection, including most recently Sri Lanka and Germany.
  - Department of State has the lead for the safe and expedient ordered departure of all U.S. citizens from Wuhan, China. However, CDC is aware and coordinating in the planning.

### **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 with who recently traveled **from China** and fever and respiratory symptoms.
  - If you are a healthcare provider caring for a 2019-nCoV patient, please take care of yourself and follow recommended infection control procedures.
  - For people who may have 2019-nCoV infection, please follow CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others. This guidance is on the CDC website.
  - 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 more information please visit the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Page at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>