

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet

Updated: 2/12/2020

2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new kind of coronavirus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, ongoing person-to-person spread is now occurring.

### Symptoms:

Reported illnesses have ranged from people being mildly sick to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### Spread:

At this time, COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person in China and cases have been detected in many other countries, including the United States.

There is no specific risk of COVID-19 among persons of any race or country of origin. Currently, the risk for COVID-19 is associated with recent travel to China.

It is important to understand that there are seven different coronaviruses known to infect humans.

- Four of the seven coronaviruses are very common, more mild (similar to the common cold), and most people will be infected with at least one of them in their lifetime. Healthcare providers test for these common coronaviruses routinely, and no public health measures are needed to address these common coronaviruses. People infected with the common coronaviruses can avoid passing them to others by covering their coughs and sneezes, cleaning their hands frequently and containing germs by staying home when ill.
- Three of the seven coronaviruses are rare and can cause more severe illness; these include the 2019 novel coronavirus. Testing for this virus can only be done at CDC; healthcare providers are not able to test for this virus independent of public health.

### Prevention:

CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Warning: All nonessential travel to China should be avoided.

If you have recently traveled to China and feel sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a health care office, call ahead and tell them about your travel and your symptoms.

CDC is notifying IDPH of incoming asymptomatic (without symptoms) travelers from China (symptomatic (with symptoms) travelers will be assessed by healthcare providers prior to being released from the airport). Public health then evaluates asymptomatic individuals for risk level and issues public health monitoring orders that outline requirements to report symptoms to public health twice daily and restrictions on daily activities.

There is very low risk of spread from products or packaging from China that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at normal temperatures because coronaviruses can't survive on these surfaces.

The risk to Iowans remains low at this time. Right now influenza is a much bigger threat to Iowans.

- Protect yourself from the flu:
  - It's not too late to get your flu vaccine.
  - If you are sick, stay home.
  - Cover coughs and sneezes.
  - Wash your hand frequently with soap and water.
- CDC does not recommend face masks for the general public.

### Contact information

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