



Health Alert Network Message 20-02: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Topline Key Points

Origination Date:
January 30, 2020

Revision Dates (list all revision dates):

MAIN KEY POINTS:

- There is an expanding outbreak in China of respiratory illness caused by a novel 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.
- Outbreaks like this – when a new virus is emerging to infect people – are always concerning.
 - 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.
- 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.
- Healthcare providers should be on the look-out for people with fever and respiratory symptoms who recently traveled from China.
- Healthcare providers caring for a 2019-nCoV patient, should follow recommended infection control procedures: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>
- Hospital laboratories are advised to order packaging materials for transport of laboratory specimens in advance.
 - Diagnostic specimens for 2019-nCoV testing require packaging and shipping as Biological Substance, Category B (UN 3373).
 - Packaging for Category B requires: Primary watertight inner receptacle, absorbent material, secondary watertight inner receptacle, and sturdy outer packaging.
 - If additional information is required regarding packaging and shipping Category B shipments, please contact the LDH OPH Laboratory at 504-458-9537.
- For updated outbreak information please visit the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Page at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Immediately contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at **1-(800) 256-2748** if you suspect a patient with 2019-nCoV.

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert: Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

Health Advisory: May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

Health Update: Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

HAN Info Service: Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, epidemiologists, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##