

Background

- The 2019 [novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#) is a type of coronavirus not previously identified in humans.
- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV), which we experienced in 2003 and 2012.
- Common signs of infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.
- No vaccine or specific treatment for 2019-nCoV infection is available; care is supportive.
- Public health authorities and scientists are tirelessly working to learn about the potential impacts of this new virus and how to prevent it from spreading.

What We Are Doing

- The Newtown Health District is collaborating with our community partners, Nuvance (Danbury Hospital) and our neighboring towns and cities in our continued commitment to work together to protect our residents. We aim to provide the most current information and direction as it becomes available regarding the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
- We are ready to adapt to updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and CT Department of Public Health protocols as they become available.
- While 2019-nCoV is new, we have experienced other novel and emerging infections. We know the process and are taking every measure to maintain preparedness for 2019-nCoV.
- We will be providing regular updates about 2019-nCoV, virus transmission, containment efforts and any other evolving information as it becomes available.

What You Can Do

Individuals who are experiencing symptoms and may have traveled to areas of concern (Wuhan, Hubei Province, China) or have been in contact with somebody who has traveled to this area should call ahead to their healthcare provider before presenting for treatment.

While there is currently no vaccine for this coronavirus, everyday preventative actions can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Stay Informed

Helpful Reference Information:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Questions can be directed to health.district@newtown-ct.gov or tel (203) 270-4291