



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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2019 Novel Coronavirus Update from Jefferson County Health Department

With the announcement of Wisconsin's first confirmed case of 2019-nCoV (novel coronavirus), the Jefferson County Health Department wanted to provide reassurance and information to the community. The Health Department Public Health Nurses are staying informed on the situation and receiving the latest updates and training from Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Department managers and staff have met with community partners to prepare for any potential cases.

Background

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illness in people and animals.

Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world. Some human coronaviruses were identified many years ago and some have been identified recently. Human coronaviruses commonly cause mild to moderate respiratory illness in people worldwide.

An investigation is ongoing related to an outbreak of a new coronavirus, 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Symptoms of the new 2019-nCoV include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, which may appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days after someone is exposed to the virus. Symptoms have ranged from a mild illness (like a common cold) to severe pneumonia requiring hospitalization. We are encouraging travelers returning from China or contacts of patients with a confirmed case who become ill to let their health care providers know of their possible exposure **before** arriving at any health care facility.

Status in the U.S.

Currently, there are 12 confirmed cases in the U.S. with the first Wisconsin case diagnosed recently, in Dane County. This is the only confirmed case at this point in Wisconsin. The risk of contracting this illness remains low in the U.S. Influenza and other respiratory viruses are

much more common at this time, and Public Health recommends the following basic hygiene measures for all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV.

Prevention Measures for the Public

The CDC has the following recommendations for preventing respiratory illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- 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 using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Also, please make sure you have received your flu vaccine this year. The Jefferson County Health Department has flu vaccine available for children 18 and younger who are uninsured or have BadgerCare. Adult flu vaccine is also available. Please call 920-674-7275 for eligibility. Flu vaccine can also be found at local pharmacies and primary care provider's offices.

Key Messages to Keep Our Community Healthy and Safe:

- Use reputable sources, such as the CDC and Wisconsin DHS, to keep up to date on the latest recommendations.
- Avoid travel to China.
- Stay home and call your doctor if you feel sick.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid assumptions or stereotypes about who you think may be sick.