



2019 Novel Coronavirus

[Updated: 2/27/2020]

An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December of 2019. Symptoms of COVID-19 in people who have been exposed can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. The United States declared a public health emergency regarding COVID-19 on Friday, January 31, 2020.

At this time there are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania.

ACHD has daily communication with state and federal health agencies and has proactively communicated and responded to questions daily with healthcare providers, schools and universities.

The Department also does daily monitoring of individuals returning from China and coordinates with healthcare providers to assess suspected cases. Please note that there are no direct flights from China to Pittsburgh International Airport, so all travelers arriving from flights originating in China will have been screened prior to arrival.

While the threat level here remains low at this time, there is the potential for community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States. As such, ACHD is modifying its emergency response plans in preparation for a potential local case. The Department has been proactively working with key sectors including hospitals and with EMS agencies on potential responses and countermeasures.

If there is community spread locally, there will be a coordinated effort with state and federal health agencies to implement procedures to help stop the spread. These potential measures may include social distancing tactics such as school closures, postponing large gatherings, and business and workplace changes.

ACHD is constantly updating its measures as more is learned about the virus and will continue to work with all parties about potential responses and actions should the virus be found here.

This page will be updated as more information becomes available and if there is any threat in this community, we will notify the public as soon as we receive such notice.

Following is additional information related to the COVID-19 outbreak:

Number of Cases

- 82,541 confirmed cases internationally with the vast majority of cases located inside China.
- Nearly all reported cases have occurred in adults (median age of 59 years).
- 2,810 deaths; 66 deaths have occurred outside of mainland China.
- 60 confirmed cases in the United States.

What You Can Do

While the COVID-19 threat level here remains low at this time, like with other infectious diseases, residents can help stop the spread of germs by:

- Washing hands thoroughly.
- Not coughing or sneezing into hands - coughing or sneezing into the shoulder or elbow instead.
- Staying at home if you are sick as to not infect others.

Additionally, it has been an active flu season. The best way to fight the flu is to get a flu shot. It is never too late to get a flu shot and ACHD urges residents to get their flu vaccination as soon as possible, if they haven't already done so.

What are the Current Screening Procedures?

Beginning on Sunday, February 2, 2020, all passengers on flights to the United States that originated in China will be screened at one of eleven U.S. airports for risk and evidence of symptoms.

Those airports are: John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, O'Hare International Airport in Illinois, San Francisco International Airport, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu, Los Angeles International Airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Dulles International Airport in Virginia, Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in Texas and Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport in Michigan.

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Travelers that have been in Hubei province in China in the last 14 days will be subject to up to 14 days of quarantine. The city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, is in Hubei.

For any U.S. citizen who has been in the rest of mainland China, if no symptoms are detected, the individuals will be allowed to complete their travel, self-quarantine at home, and will be monitored by local health departments.

For more information regarding COVID-19, visit the PA Department of Health [website](#) and view additional CDC resources below.

CDC Guidanced Documents

- Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the United States (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>)
- Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>)
- Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), February 2020 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-business-response.html>)
- What you need to know about 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>)