



Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV Fact Sheet

What is novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new strain in the coronavirus family that has spread in people since December 2019. The coronavirus family of viruses has been around for a long time and causes illnesses such as SARS, MERS, and strains of common cold. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness in some people.

How does 2019-nCoV spread?

Health experts are still learning the details on this new coronavirus strain. Other coronavirus strains spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes
- In rare cases, contact with feces

What are the symptoms?

Diagnosed persons have reported symptoms such as fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. These symptoms can appear in as few as 2 days to as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Severity has been reported from mild symptoms to severe pneumonia requiring hospitalization.

Who is at risk for 2019-nCoV?

Currently, the risk to the general population is low in the United States. To date, there are no confirmed cases in Ohio. There are five confirmed cases in the United States. To minimize the risk of spread, public health officials and healthcare providers are working together to promptly identify and evaluate and suspected cases.

How can I protect myself?

If you are traveling overseas, follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Traveler's Health guidance on their website – www.cdc.gov.

Right now, novel coronavirus is not spreading widely in the United States, so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. Steps you can take to prevent the spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others
- Cover your nose/mouth with a tissues or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

Currently, there is no vaccine available for novel coronavirus.

For more information, see cdc.gov or odh.ohio.gov.

Adapted from Ohio Department of Health's Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet 1/28/2020