



Town of Redding
Health Department

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The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Background Information:

There is an outbreak of respiratory illness centered in China caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and which has now been detected in 37 locations internationally, including cases in the United States.

This virus is able to spread from person-to-person and the potential global public health threat by this virus is high, but right now this virus is not currently spreading in the community in the United States and the immediate risk to most Americans is low.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and the risk assessment for American's may change.

The incubation period is thought to be 2-14 days.

The public health response is multi-layered, with the goal of detecting and minimizing introductions of this virus in the United States so as to reduce the spread and impact of the virus.

Special precautions are required of US citizens and legal permanent residents entering the United States who have been in China during the past 14 days, including up to 14-day quarantine.

All American citizens coming from China will be directed to one of 11 US airports. As of February 10, about 30,000 people have been screened at US airports.

2019-nCoV has not been detected in Connecticut.

What Are The Symptoms of Infection?

Corona viruses are respiratory viruses and are generally spread through respiratory secretions (droplets from coughs and sneezes) of an infected person to another person. Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and in severe cases, pneumonia (fluid in the lungs).

What do you do if you are sick?

- Stay home except to get medical care
- Monitor your symptoms. Get medical care quickly if your illness is getting worse.
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor. Calling the medical provider ahead of time will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected.
- Separate yourself from other people in your home
- Wear a face mask
- With tissue cover your coughs and sneezes then immediately wash your hands
- **Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** You can use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing household items such as dishes, drinking glasses, utensils, towels

Is There A Vaccine?

Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 nor is one expected to be available for a year.

What Can You Do?

While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help respond to this emerging threat:

- If you have symptoms report them your doctor.
- It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and the CDC recommends getting the flu vaccine.
- 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 6 feet from those with flu-like symptoms which include coughing and sneezing. Note that viruses can persist on surfaces for several hours.

How is the Redding Health Department Responding?

The Redding Health Department is collaborating with our community partners such as the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Nuvance Health (Danbury Hospital), and our neighboring towns as part of our continuing collaboration to protect the health of our community. We aim to provide the most current information and direction as it becomes available.

Other Important Information:

Seasonal flu activity is currently considered widespread throughout Connecticut. As of February 22, 2020, Connecticut has had 10,286 test positive for influenza with 2,230 patients hospitalized, and 58 deaths.

If you have not already, consider getting your flu shot to help protect you this season.

These notices will be updated as more information becomes available.

For up to date information visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Contact Information:

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Website: [Townofreddingct.org](https://www.townofreddingct.org)

Information compiled from CDC www.cdc.gov and CT Department of Public Health portal.ct.gov/dph

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