

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Department
County of Warren
For More Information: 908-475-7960
March 4, 2020



COVID-19 Continues to spread in the US

Warren County Agencies Stay Prepared, Monitoring the Situation

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY – The Warren County Health Department (WCHD) and the Warren County Office of Emergency Management (WCOEM) are working together to monitor the evolving situation regarding COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). In an effort to provide updated and accurate information to the public, healthcare providers, schools, municipalities, and elected officials, WCHD will continue to distribute guidance from the New Jersey State Health Department (NJDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“In anticipation of possible COVID-19 cases in the state and county, the Health Department is working with the Warren County Office of Emergency Management to prepare for and respond to this novel virus,” said Warren County Health Officer Pete Summers.

WCHD and WCOEM are taking steps to prepare, and are ready to take appropriate action if and when COVID-19 arrives in New Jersey.

“While there is no immediate public health threat here in Warren County, we want our residents to know that we are working with our state and federal partners to be prepared for any future impact to our area,” said Freeholder James R. Kern, III, the freeholder board liaison for public health and public safety. “I commend the work of our Health Department during these recent weeks,” he added.

WCHD encourages the public to contact the NJDOH Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 if they have general questions about COVID-19. Additional information may be found on the CDC’s Coronavirus website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/ or from NJDOH at www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml.

At this time, there is no vaccine available to prevent COVID-19. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease, and spreads from person-to-person.

Everyone can take the following steps to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like flu or COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and may occur two days to two weeks after being exposed to the virus. If you are sick with respiratory symptoms, call your doctor before you visit the doctor's office or emergency room. Please be sure to mention any recent travel history.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Warren County Health Department at 908-475-7960.

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2019 Novel Coronavirus



What is a novel coronavirus?

Novel (meaning “new”) coronavirus is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. 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 novel coronavirus spread?

Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

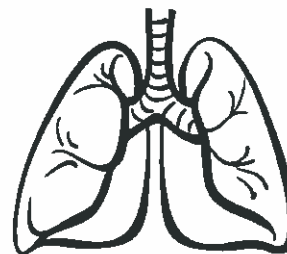
- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes
- In rare cases, contact with feces (poop)

How severe is novel coronavirus?

Health experts are still learning about the illness caused by the new virus. People infected have had illness that has ranged from mild (like a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires medical care in a hospital. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

What are the symptoms?

People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have symptoms that may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.



Who is at risk for novel coronavirus?

Currently, there is a widespread outbreak in Wuhan, China. At this time, the risk in the U.S. to the general public is low. At this time, there are a small number of cases in the U.S. To limit the risk of spread, health officials are working with healthcare providers to promptly identify and evaluate anyone they think may have the virus.

Travelers to and from certain areas of the world may be at increased risk. See wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel for the latest travel guidance from the CDC.

How can I prevent from getting novel coronavirus?

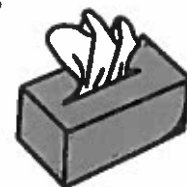
If you are traveling overseas (to China, but also to other places) follow the CDC's guidance at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel.

Right now the novel coronavirus has not been spreading widely in the United States, so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. Steps you can take to prevent 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 contact with others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing



Currently there are no vaccines available to prevent novel coronavirus infections.



How is novel coronavirus treated?

There is no specific treatment for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some people develop pneumonia and need medical care or treatment in a hospital.

For more information: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

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