2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) FAQ
(updated 1/26/2020)

What is the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

- The 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hebei Province, China.

What is a novel coronavirus?

- A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified.

What is a coronavirus?

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. There are several known coronaviruses that infect people and usually only cause mild respiratory disease, such as the common cold.
- However, at least two previously identified coronaviruses have caused severe disease.
  - Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).
  - SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV are NOT the cause of the current outbreak.
- Coronaviruses are often found in animals, and some of these viruses have the capability of transmitting between animals and humans or from person-to-person.

What is the source of 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

- Public health officials and partners are working hard to identify the source of the 2019-nCoV. Analysis of the genetic tree of this virus is ongoing to know the specific source of the virus.
- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats.
- Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting the virus likely emerged from an animal source.
  - SARS, another coronavirus that emerged to infect people, came from civet cats, while MERS, another coronavirus that emerged to infect people, came from camels.

What are the symptoms and complications that Novel Coronavirus 2019 can cause?

- Current symptoms reported for patients with 2019-nCoV have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
How does the virus spread?

- This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person. It’s important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so.
- It’s not clear yet how easily 2019-nCoV spreads from person to person. When person-to-person spread has occurred with MERS and SARS, it is thought to have happened mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Spread of MERS and SARS between people has generally occurred between close contacts.

Has anyone in the United States gotten infected?

- Yes. As of January 26, 2020, 5 cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported in the United States. More cases are likely to continue to be identified in the United States. A case count table is available on the CDC website.
- On January 26, 2020, Maricopa County announced its first confirmed case of 2019-nCoV.
  - The patient is a member of the Arizona State University community who does not live in university housing
  - This person is not severely ill and is currently in isolation to keep the illness from spreading.

This is a rapidly evolving situation:

- Please visit the Maricopa County Department of Public Health website for the most up-to-date and accurate information about what is going on in Maricopa County: Maricopa.gov/coronavirus
- Please visit the CDC website for the most up-to-date information about what is going on nationally and internationally: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

What is being done to prevent the spread of this illness?

- Chinese officials have quarantined Wuhan City, and no travel is currently being allowed out of the city.
- However, several countries in the region have implemented health screenings for travelers entering from Wuhan City.
- On January 17, 2020, CDC began implementing public health entry screening at San Francisco (SFO), New York (JFK), and Los Angeles (LAX) airports. As of 01/21/2020, CDC added entry health screening at Atlanta (ATL) and Chicago O’Hare (ORD).
  - This health screening includes having their temperature taken and filling out a symptom questionnaire.
  - Travelers with signs and symptoms of illness (fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) will have an additional health assessment.
  - Travelers will be given information on what symptoms to self-monitor for and who to call if they develop symptoms.

Am I at risk for 2019-nCoV infection in the United States?

- This is a rapidly evolving situation and the risk assessment may change daily.
- Please visit the CDC website for the most up-to-date information: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html#risk-assessment

What if I recently traveled to Wuhan, China and got sick?
If you were in Wuhan and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, within 14 days after you left Wuhan, you should seek medical care right away.
   - Before you go to a doctor’s office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
   - Cover your nose and mouth with a mask as soon as you arrive to the healthcare facility for medical evaluation.

- Avoid contact with others while sick.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus to others. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

How can I help protect myself?
- 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.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

Is it safe to travel to Wuhan, China or other countries where 2019-nCoV 2019 cases have occurred?
- CDC has issued at a Level 3 Travel Health Notice recommending people avoid all nonessential travel to Wuhan, China.
- CDC has also issued a Level 1 Travel Health Notice for the rest of China: Practice Usual Precautions. The notice advises travelers to other parts of China to protect their health by avoiding contact with sick people, avoiding animals (alive or dead) and animal markets, and washing their hands often.
- The situation is evolving. These notices will be updated as more information becomes available.

Is there a vaccine?
- Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against 2019-nCoV.

What are the treatments?
- There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection. People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive treatment guidance from their healthcare providers.

Should I be tested for 2019-nCoV?
- If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after travel from Wuhan, China, you should call ahead to a healthcare provider and mention your recent travel.
- If you have had close contact with someone showing these symptoms who has recently traveled from this area, you should call ahead to a healthcare provider and mention your recent travel or close contact. Your healthcare provider will work with your state’s public health department and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for 2019-nCoV.

How do you test a person for 2019-nCoV?
At this time, diagnostic testing for 2019-nCoV can be conducted only at CDC. Maricopa County will work closely with healthcare providers and the state health department to provide testing for individuals who meet the criteria.

Is 2019-nCoV the same as the MERS-CoV or SARS virus?
- **No, 2019-nCoV is not the same as MERS-CoV or SARS.** Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats.
- The recently emerged 2019-nCoV is not the same as the coronavirus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) or the coronavirus that causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003.
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

Should I be concerned about pets or other animals and 2019-nCoV?
- While this virus seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person. CDC recommends that people traveling to China avoid animals both live and dead, but there is no reason to think that any animals or pets in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus.

What about animals or animal products imported from China?
- CDC does not have any evidence to suggest that animals or animal products imported from China pose a risk for spreading 2019-nCoV in the United States. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

Where can I go for more information?
Information is rapidly developing, you can find the most up-to-date information about the novel coronavirus here: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)