



## Frequently Asked Questions & Answers about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19)

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- An outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) began in Wuhan Hubei Province, China in December 2019.
- To date, an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread throughout China and to 31 other countries and territories, including the United States.
- Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world. Human coronaviruses commonly cause mild to moderate illness in people worldwide.
- While the CDC, state, and local public health officials consider this is a very serious public health threat, based on current information, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 to the general public is considered low at this time. For up to date information visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF INFECTION?

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### HOW DOES THE VIRUS SPREAD?

- The virus originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person.
- 14 cases have been diagnosed in the United States, in addition to 39 cases among repatriated persons from high-risk settings, for a current total of 53 cases within the United States.
- However, COVID-19 has not been found to be spreading in the United States.
- Public health authorities and researchers are working to learn about the potential impacts of this new virus and how to prevent it from spreading.

### 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 COVID-19 in the United States.
- This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.
- The United States Department of Agriculture regulates the importation of animals and animal products, and CDC regulates the importation of animals and animal products capable of spreading human disease.

### AM I AT RISK OF COVID-19 FROM A PACKAGE OR PRODUCTS SHIPPING FROM CHINA?

- There is likely a very low risk of spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures.
- Currently, there is no evidence to support the transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods.

### SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT PETS OR OTHER ANIMALS AND COVID-19?

- 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 alive 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.

### IS THERE A VACCINE?

- Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19.

### ARE THERE TREATMENTS AVAILABLE FOR COVID-19?

- There are currently no antiviral drugs recommended or licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for COVID-19.
- It is recommended that people engage in usual preventative actions to prevent the spread of respiratory infections, including covering coughs, cleaning hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizer, and staying up to date on vaccinations, including influenza.

#### **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF?**

- 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.

#### **SHOULD I USE A FACEMASK IN THE COMMUNITY TO PREVENT COVID-19?**

- No, the CDC does not currently recommend the use of face masks among the general public.

#### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19 OR WHAT IF I RECENTLY TRAVELED TO WUHAN PROVINCE, CHINA?**

If you were in Wuhan and feel sick with fever, cough, or have 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 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.
- Avoid contact with others.

#### **IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL TO STATES OR COUNTRIES WHERE CASES HAVE OCCURRED?**

- The situation is evolving. Stay up to date with CDC's travel health notices related to this outbreak: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>. These notices will be updated as more information becomes available.

#### **HOW IS DANBURY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES RESPONDING?**

- Our department is collaborating with our community partners such as Nuvance Health (Danbury Hospital), Western Connecticut State University, local schools, and our neighboring towns as part of our continuing collaboration to protect the health of our community.
- We will continue to post updates to our website as new information becomes available.
- Our team as well as the local healthcare network have prepared for and have experienced other types of new and emerging infections in the past and can provide recommendations and guidance on infection control and related questions.

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- The goal of the ongoing U.S. public health response is to contain this outbreak and prevent the sustained spread of COVID-19 in this country.

#### **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Flu activity is widespread throughout Connecticut, as of February 15, 2020, 1,909 patients have been hospitalized with influenza during the current season.
- As of February 15, 2020, 14.49% of people visiting the emergency room had flu-like symptoms.
- If you have not already, consider getting your flu shot to help protect you this season.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

City of Danbury Department of Health & Human Services  
 Telephone Inquiries: 203-797-4625  
 Website: [danbury-ct.gov/health](http://danbury-ct.gov/health)