

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

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February 4, 2020

The staff here at CCBH has been working closely with the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management, local hospitals, safety forces, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the national response to the novel coronavirus, known as 2019-nCoV. Our team has decades of experience in responding to public health emergencies and has been actively involved in this response as well.

On January 31, 2020, the federal government declared a public health emergency to aid the nation's health system in responding to 2019-nCoV. Also on January 31, the federal government released international travel restrictions and health monitoring of individuals returning to the United States from China. Implementation of federal quarantine protocols and health monitoring of returning travelers will be coordinated by state and local health departments working with CDC.

Currently, there are no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Ohio and there is no evidence of community transmission of 2019-nCoV in the United States.

The novel coronavirus is primarily spread through respiratory droplets. To become infected, people generally must be within six feet of someone who is contagious and have droplets land on them. Symptoms of coronavirus appear within two to 14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, runny nose and difficulty breathing.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection.

To prevent the spread of any virus including novel coronavirus, practice these preventive measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- 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

It's also important to note that currently, there are over 19 million cases of seasonal influenza in the United States, with over 10,000 fatalities. Getting your flu shot every year is an important way to protect you and your family from seasonal illness.

CCBH tracks the flu season with weekly reports that can be viewed at:

<https://www.ccbh.net/flu-weekly-reports/>

For the latest information about coronavirus, please visit these sites:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Ohio Department of Health

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/2019-nCoV>

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

<https://www.ccbh.net/coronavirus/>

Going forward, we will continue to keep you posted as the situation evolves.

Thank you,

Terry Allan
Health Commissioner