



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

VICTORIA COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Information Release

01/31/2020

Notice:

The Victoria County Public Health Department, in conjunction with the Texas Department of State Health Services, emergency management officials, and other public health officials, continues to monitor an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This virus should not be confused with other common human coronaviruses known to cause illness.

DSHS reports no confirmed cases of the 2019-nCoV in Texas at this time. While this is a serious public health threat, based on current information, the risk to the general American public is low. Victoria County Public Health will only report confirmed cases of infectious disease and will promptly do so in the event of a confirmed case of 2019 novel (new) coronavirus.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of this novel coronavirus in Victoria County. There is no current reason for people to avoid any local business due to concerns about the 2019-nCoV. Victoria County continues to stand ready with our partners to ensure our community is protected. We are closely monitoring the latest developments and will provide updates as needed.

Prevention:

While the 2019-nCoV, coronavirus is a new respiratory virus, ways to prevent respiratory illness are the same:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Travelers:

If you were in China in the last 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, 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.
- Avoid contact with others.
- 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. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Clinician Information:

Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for patients with fever and respiratory symptoms. For patients with these symptoms who were in China on or after December 1, 2019, and had onset of illness within 2 weeks of leaving, consider the novel coronavirus and notify infection control personnel and the Victoria County Public Health Department immediately.

Additional Information:

- Texas Department of State Health Services: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and You



What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get 2019-nCoV?

This 2019-nCoV virus does seem to be able to spread from person-to-person although it's not clear how easily this happens. Person-to-person spread in the United States has not yet been detected, but it's likely to occur to some extent. At this time this virus is not spreading in the United States, so the likelihood of someone in the U.S. getting sick with this virus is very low. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

Have there been cases of 2019-nCoV in the U.S.?

Yes. The first infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States is available on CDC's webpage: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html

How does 2019-nCoV 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. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html.

What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

How can I help protect myself?

This virus is not spreading in the United States right now, but the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- 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.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should get medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against 2019-nCoV. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV. People with 2019-nCoV can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.