2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Prevention in Michigan
Frequently Asked Questions

What is being done in Michigan to prevent the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

On Feb. 3, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) activated the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC) to support local and state response to the outbreak. MDHHS is working closely with healthcare providers, local public health departments, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify potential cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Michigan. MDHHS has implemented emergency response standard operating procedures that address infectious disease outbreaks and new or emerging illnesses, such as the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Coordination with local and federal public health agencies and monitoring for potentially ill individuals is discussed in these MDHHS standard operating procedures. The goal of the response is to slow spread and exposure of the virus.

How does public health monitor for potential cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

If a person presents at a healthcare provider with symptoms that are consistent with 2019 Novel Coronavirus and has a recent travel history that includes mainland China or has had contact with a person who was confirmed to have a 2019 Novel Coronavirus infection, the healthcare provider should immediately notify the local health department. The local health department will work with MDHHS to determine if the individual meets the criteria and should be tested for 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Individuals who are concerned they may have a 2019 Novel Coronavirus infection should contact their healthcare provider or local health department.

Does public health screen travelers from China?

The CDC and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are conducting enhanced health screenings at 11 airports across the country, including Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), for those individuals with a travel history that includes visiting China during the last 14 days. The CDC will conduct temperature screenings and observe travelers for symptoms. The CDC will determine if sick travelers entering through U.S. quarantine stations need to be taken to a healthcare facility for medical evaluation. Healthy travelers may continue to their destination and work with their local health department to ensure appropriate follow-up. Travelers who have visited mainland China during the previous 14 days are required to be monitored by public health for 14 days after leaving China.

More information on travel screening

What are the screening criteria for determining whether an individual will be tested for 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

Determining whether an individual meets the criteria to be tested for 2019 Novel Coronavirus is a collaborative decision that is made between the local health department where the individual resides, MDHHS, and the CDC. Various factors are taken into consideration. The CDC sets the criteria for testing and this can change as more is learned about the virus. Currently, an individual may be tested for 2019 Novel Coronavirus if they have symptoms that include fever, coughing or shortness of breath AND:

- Have a travel history that includes Hubei Province, China, or
- Have contact with a person with a confirmed case for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus
What happens when a symptomatic person meets the criteria for testing?

If public health officials determine that a person should be tested for 2019 Novel Coronavirus, samples from the patient are currently sent to the CDC laboratory for testing. The ill individual is considered to be a ‘Patient Under Investigation’ (PUI). If the individual’s symptoms are mild, they will be asked to remain in their home and limit contact with others until test results are received and a diagnosis is made. Home isolation will help to prevent the spread of the virus. Patients with more severe illness may be admitted to the hospital for care.

Why are samples only being sent to the CDC for testing?

Currently the CDC is the only laboratory approved to test for 2019 Novel Coronavirus. The State of Michigan laboratory expects to have the capability to conduct presumptive testing for the virus in the coming weeks.

How great of a risk is 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

As of February 5, 2020, the CDC is reporting 12 confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus nationwide. Therefore, the immediate health risk to the general U.S. public is considered low at this time. While the emergence of new viruses, such as 2019 Novel Coronavirus, is a concern, annual influenza infections in the United States during the last 10 years have caused upwards of 45 million infections and 60,000 deaths annually. The best prevention for respiratory illnesses, in general, is to practice good hand hygiene (wash hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds), stay home when ill, cover your cough and sneezes, and get recommended vaccinations.

Even though the risk of exposure to 2019 Novel Coronavirus is considered low at this time, should we wear masks or change our travel plans if we’re planning a trip to a state or country where there is currently a case?

There are no recommendations by federal, state or local public health officials to wear masks, cancel events, or restrict travel within the United States. The CDC is, however, recommending avoiding nonessential travel to China. Traveler updates are available at: cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-wuhan-china

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or novel coronavirus is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.

2019 Novel Coronavirus Information Updates:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov/coronavirus
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services: michigan.gov/coronavirus