

2019-nCoV: Guidance for Students

2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is a new respiratory virus identified in December 2019 as the cause of an outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. 2019-nCoV has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases, including cases outside China. The first case in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020 and the first case in the Chicago area was announced on January 24, 2020, in a person who had traveled to Wuhan, China. The latest situation summary updates, including the number of cases identified in the United States, are available on CDC's web page [2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China](#).

Currently, the health risk to the general public from novel coronavirus remains low, both in the U.S. and in Chicago. Measures are being developed to prevent the spread of illness in Chicago and, at this point, **there is NO need for students to take any special precautions.** The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) takes new viruses very seriously, is monitoring the situation carefully, and will rapidly communicate any changes in this guidance.

Chicago students do NOT need to change their behavior in any way. CDPH does NOT recommend:

- the use of masks or gloves
- any change in daily travel routines
- social distancing
- avoiding mass gatherings
- missing classes and work

As with any respiratory virus, students can protect themselves and others by taking everyday preventative actions:

- 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.

CDPH recommends students avoid non-essential travel to China. If you must travel:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- 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.

If you recently traveled from China and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should seek medical care right away. Please call your medical provider in advance, so they are prepared to see you.

For more information, please visit www.chicago.gov/2019-nCoV or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus, email coronavirus@chicago.gov, or call 312-746-4835.