

Novel Coronavirus (nCoV)

Fact Sheet – January, 2020

- Chicago's O'Hare International Airport has been added to a list of five U.S. airports where health screening of travelers arriving from Wuhan, China, on direct or connecting flights is being implemented related to concerns about the spread of a novel (new) coronavirus (nCoV). The other airports are San Francisco (SFO), New York (JFK), Los Angeles (LAX) and Atlanta (ATL).
- The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Department of Aviation and other City departments are working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to set up a process to assess and identify potentially infected travelers on arriving flights at O'Hare who may have originated in Wuhan, China.
- Screening includes a symptom screen for arriving passengers with travel from Wuhan and a temperature check done at the airport, in a secure, private section of Terminal 5. Anyone with concerning symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) will then be securely transported by personnel from the Chicago Fire Department to a hospital for further assessment and testing, if indicated. Travelers who screen positive for potential illness will not pass through the general airport population.
- Based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is deemed to be low at this time. Nevertheless, outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern and the City is taking proactive preparedness precautions.
- Entry screening alone is not a guarantee against the possible importation of this new virus but is an important public health tool during periods of uncertainty and part of a multilayered government response strategy. As new information emerges, CDC will reassess entry screening measures and could scale activities up or down accordingly.
- Travelers going through O'Hare or any of the other airports where screenings are occurring do not need to take special precautions at this time, nor do people who work at the airports.
- If you traveled to Wuhan, or have been in close contact with someone who has recently traveled to the Wuhan region, 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.
 - stay home, except for seeking medical care, and avoid contact with others.
 - 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.
- The new coronavirus has resulted in three deaths and more than 200 confirmed human infections in China and exported cases in Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and one reported case so far in the United States (Washington state).
- Coronaviruses are a class of respiratory viruses that range from the common cold to more serious illnesses like SARS and MERS. They can cause fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and pneumonia. Coronaviruses are generally spread via the air, like when people cough and sneeze, similar to the common cold—and *not* through simple touch
- Many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China have reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting limited person-to-person spread is occurring. All the characteristics of this virus and how it may affect people are still unclear. There are ongoing investigations to learn more.
- The CDC is offering more information and guidance on its web site:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Fnovel-coronavirus-2019.html