

COVID-19

Austin Public Health continues to monitor an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

While the US has declared this a public health emergency, based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is considered low at this time.

How does it spread?

Coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- Respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

Symptoms

Patients with confirmed infection have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you are experiencing these symptoms AND have traveled from China within 14 days of symptom onset, contact your health care provider.

Be sure to call ahead before going to your doctor's office or emergency department to prevent any potential spread.

Prevention

The best way to prevent infection is to take precautions to avoid exposure to this virus, which are similar to the precautions you take to avoid the flu:

- 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

For more information, please visit:
www.DSHS.Texas.gov/Coronavirus/

