

March 3, 2020

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Dear Neighbor,

We welcome the opportunity to share an update from the Assembly and information from the New York State Department of Health regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Last evening, we voted in the Assembly to pass a \$40 million appropriation bill to help save the lives of New Yorkers. While the vast majority of people who contract the novel coronavirus do not become seriously ill, we have seen how quickly the disease can spread and just how deadly it can be. This funding will cover the costs of lifesaving equipment and supplies, and ensure healthcare workers have the training they need to deal with this health crisis.

Additionally, New York's world-renowned Wadsworth Center is partnering with hospitals to expand surge testing capacity to 1,000 tests per day statewide for the novel coronavirus. The Wadsworth Center is the first non-CDC test that has been given approval by the FDA to test quickly and efficiently. New York State will institute a new cleaning protocol at schools and in the public transportation system to help stop any potential spread of the virus.

The social response to misinformation has been unfortunate. We have seen news reporting misinformation about novel Coronavirus leading to racist and xenophobic attacks. Being of Asian descent does not increase a person's chances of contracting COVID-19.

Symptoms

The 2019 novel coronavirus may cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like:

- cough
- fever
- trouble breathing and
- pneumonia

CDC believes at this time that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus.

How Does Novel Coronavirus Spread?

Most of the early reported cases had contact with a seafood and live animal market, suggesting an animal source of the outbreak. However, most cases are now likely to be spread from person to person by droplets when coughing. Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads.

Prevention

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent this virus, these simple steps can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- 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.

Important Health Information For Those Who Have Recently Traveled to China

If you recently traveled to China and feel sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others. Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
- Avoid further travel until the illness resolves.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

For more information visit:

[CDC Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions About Monitoring and Movement Restrictions](#)

Or call 1-888-364-3065 for Information about Coronavirus



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