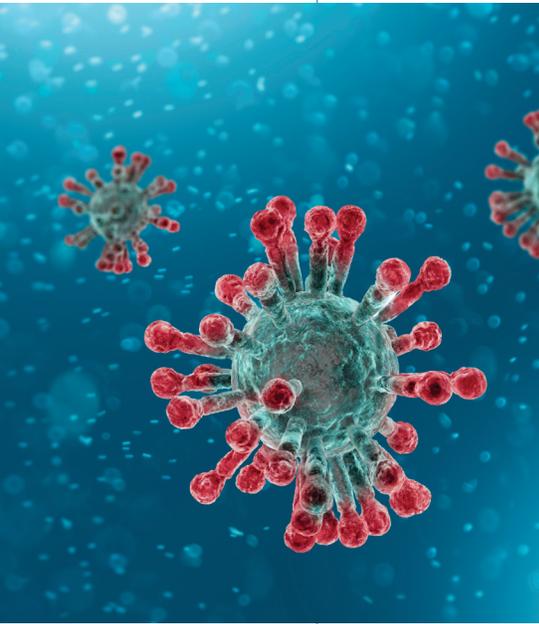


9 Things You Need to Know about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus



As of February 3, 2020, three people in New York City have been identified for testing for the novel coronavirus, including one patient hospitalized at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue.

The patient at Bellevue, who is under 40 and had recently traveled from China, is in stable condition. The other two individuals, who are over 60-years-old, are hospitalized at Flushing Hospital Medical Center and New York-Presbyterian Queens. Both are in stable condition. Testing to determine whether these are confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus will take a minimum of 36-48 hours and depends on CDC testing capacity.

As of February 3, 2020, there have been more than 17,000 confirmed cases in over two dozen countries with 362 deaths. In the U.S., there have been nine confirmed cases.

To protect our staff and patients, NYC Health + Hospitals providers should take these precautions:

- + Front line providers should obtain a detailed travel history for all patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness in order to identify, isolate, and inform appropriate partners promptly.
- + Patients with respiratory illness should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available.
- + Health care personnel entering the room should use airborne, contact, and standard precautions with eye protection like goggles or a face shield.
- + If a suspected patient is identified, providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their facility and NYC DOHMH Provider Access Line 866-NYCDOH1 or 1-866 692-3641.

As health officials continue investigating this rapidly evolving outbreak, here are 9 Things You Need to Know About the Novel Coronavirus.

Q: What is the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

A: The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Q: What are “coronaviruses”?

A: Coronaviruses, named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Human coronaviruses were first identified in the mid-1960s.

Q: What is the difference between the common coronavirus and the novel (new) coronavirus?

A: There are [seven coronaviruses](#) that can infect people. Four of these are common coronaviruses and indicate a common cold which can be detected using routine laboratory tests. They are: 229E; NL63; OC43; and HKU1.

Sometimes coronaviruses that infect animals can evolve and make people sick and become a new human coronavirus. These viruses can only be tested for at a designated public health lab. Three recent examples of this are:

- + **2019-nCoV** - the current coronavirus identified in China
- + **MERS-CoV** - the coronavirus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome or MERS
- + **SARS-CoV** - the coronavirus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS

Q: What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

A: Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of a fever with respiratory symptoms such as cough OR shortness of breath.

Q: What are severe complications from this new coronavirus?

A: Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs.



Q: Is there a vaccine?

A: There is currently no vaccine to protect against 2019-nCoV. The best way to prevent infection is by practicing basic infection control precautions, such as respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene, and to avoid close contact with sick individuals.

Q: Is there a treatment?

A: There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV. People with 2019-nCoV can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

Q: What is NYC Health + Hospitals doing to increase awareness and training?

In response to the new coronavirus, our health system is taking several added measures.

- + **Electronic Alerts for Clinicians** - Travel Screening in our H2O electronic medical record system will continuously be updated to include countries in which the outbreak has spread based on public health guidance.
- + **Screening and Treatment Guidelines** - Our Special Pathogens team has developed several guidance documents for facilities to use if a suspected or confirmed patient presents to any of our facilities. For the most up-to-date resources, visit the e [Infectious Disease Dashboard](#).
- + **Staff Training** - A 45-minute in-service training program is available for frontline staff on how to identify, isolate and inform on diseases of public health concern. Just-in-time training resources and videos will be available this week to all staff. For further questions, contact: syra.madad@nychhc.org
- + **Emergency Management & City-wide Coordination** - The Central Office Emergency Operations Center is virtually activated to monitor the ongoing outbreak and provide support to all sites as needed. Health system leadership is in constant communication with public health partners.

Q: Where can I go to get more information?

- + CDC-Novel Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions, [click here](#).
- + CDC-Novel Coronavirus Information for Health Professionals, [click here](#).
- + World Health Organization Coronavirus page, [click here](#).
- + NYC DOHMH Coronavirus page, [click here](#).