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## **Infectious Disease Targeted Communication**

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**DATE:** February 3, 2020

**TIME:** 1:00 PM EST

**TO:** New Hampshire Schools, Colleges, and Universities

**FROM:** Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (BIDC)

**SUBJECT:** 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Quarantine and Self-Monitoring Guidance

### **Current Situation:**

In December 2019, an outbreak of pneumonias was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China; the cause was identified as a novel coronavirus, now called 2019-nCoV. Over the last weeks, the outbreak has spread to other parts of China and internationally. As of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, more than 17,000 infections, including more than 350 deaths, have been identified in more than 25 countries. While the vast majority of infections have been identified in mainland China, specifically Hubei Province, there have been 11 infections in the United States, including in the states of California (6), Illinois (2), Washington State (1), Arizona (1), and most recently Massachusetts (1). Given the acceleration of the outbreak and global spread, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on January 30, 2020. On January 31, 2020, The U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar declared that the 2019-nCoV presents a public health emergency in the United States and implemented the following measures, which went into effect on February 2, 2020 at 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time:

- Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been in Hubei Province, China in the previous 14 days will be subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine at a U.S. facility for health monitoring;
- Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been to the rest of mainland China within the previous 14 days will undergo proactive entry screening at a select number of ports of entry and up to 14 days of monitored "self-quarantine" to ensure they have not contracted the virus and do not pose a public health risk; and
- Any foreign national (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the U.S.) who has travelled in China in the prior 14 days will be denied entry in to the United States.

### **The NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) Key Points & Recommendations:**

Based on preliminary guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) recommends the following measures **for boarding**

***schools and post-secondary educational institutions*** for identification and monitoring of persons who have travelled to mainland China:

- Message your community to identify any persons who have been in China in the previous 14 days. An example message is attached.
- Any person who travelled within Hubei Province within the last 14 days should immediately contact NH DPHS by calling 603-271-4496 (after-hours: 603-271-5300). These people will be monitored by NH DPHS.
- Any person who has travelled to mainland China (other than Hubei Province) in the previous 14 days should be instructed to stay at home and avoid close contact with others through 14 days from their last day in China. These people should monitor for symptoms of fever or any respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, and notify DPHS immediately if they develop fever or respiratory illness by calling 603-271-4496 (after-hours: 603-271-5300). These individuals should:
  - Stay home from school or work;
  - Distance themselves from other household members (stay more than 6 feet away) while at home;
  - Avoid public places, especially mass gatherings and events, public transportation, stores, church, parties, etc.; and
  - Avoid any further travel until their monitoring period is over.
- For people who travelled to mainland China (other than Hubei Province) in the previous 14 days and **who live in school settings**, school officials should provide housing that includes:
  - A private room with a private bathroom
    - Multiple people under monitoring may be housed together in a shared room/building or have a shared bathroom;
  - A private entrance; and
  - Access to food and other essentials so that the person can avoid public places (e.g., dining halls, cafeterias, etc.).
- School officials who identify a person who has travelled to China and reports symptoms of fever or any respiratory illness within 14 days of their departure from China should notify NH DPHS immediately by calling 603-271-4496 (after-hours: 603-271-5300).

**Requested Actions:**

- Call NH DPHS at (603) 271-4496 with any questions or to report persons who have symptoms of fever or respiratory illness within 14 days of travel to China.
- Message your community as requested using the attached message or similar.

**Resources:**

- NH DPHS Website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>
- CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**DPHS Key Contact Information:**

- Public Health Professional on call for reporting or questions:  
Business hours: 603-271-4496  
After hours: 603-271-5300

## **ATTACHMENT: EXAMPLE COMMUNITY MESSAGE**

To our school community,

By now you have likely heard of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December. We have been monitoring this outbreak closely and receiving updates and guidance from local, state, and federal partners. Given the spread of this new virus in China and to other countries, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) has provided new recommendations for people who have recently returned from China and have requested our assistance in sharing this information.

Late last week, the U.S. Department of State elevated its China travel advisory to a Level 4: Do Not Travel recommendation, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency. As a result, there are new restrictions for individuals who have recently been in China, including a temporary ban on entry into the United States for foreign nationals who have been to mainland China in the last 14 days (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents), and closer health monitoring of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who recently traveled to China and have returned to the United States.

As a result of these new steps to control spread of this 2019-nCoV, NH DPHS is requesting:

1. Any person who has travelled to any location in Hubei Province within the last 14 days, even if they are without symptoms, should stay home for 14 days from their last day in China, and contact the NH DPHS at 603-271-4496 (after-hours: 603-271-5300), so that NH DPHS can assist them with monitoring their health;
2. Any person who has travelled to mainland China other than Hubei Province within the last 14 days, even those without symptoms, should stay home for 14 days from the last day of travel to China, and monitor themselves for fever and respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath. If travelers do develop fever or respiratory illness within 14 days of their departure from China, they should contact NH DPHS at 603-271-4496 (after-hours: 603-271-5300).

This is a rapidly changing situation and we will continue to work with NH DPHS to respond appropriately. While the risk from this new virus remains low in New Hampshire, there are steps you can take to protect yourself from all viruses that can cause respiratory illness this time of year, including the common cold and flu. This includes frequent handwashing with soap and water, avoiding close contact with sick individuals, staying home if you are sick, covering your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.