

CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was identified in December as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and which continues to expand. Cases have been identified in the United States, as well as many other countries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State and local health departments, including the New Hampshire (NH) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health Services' (DPHS), are monitoring this rapidly developing situation. Information about this outbreak is available [on the NHDHHS website](#) and is continuously being updated.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

- **How is it spread?**

It is not clear yet how easily COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person. Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets, including:

- Through 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.

This is similar to how influenza and other respiratory infections spread. Until we learn more about how easily the COVID-19 spreads between people, healthcare providers may wear special personal protective equipment (e.g. masks and eye protection) when evaluating a patient if there is concern for infection with the COVID-19.

The NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have websites specifically focused on COVID-19 with many resources:

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

For more information:

[COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Businesses](#)

[COVID-19 FAQs \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#)

[COVID-19 Information for Travel](#)

[SCHOOL Communities](#)