



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) **Weekly Update #3 – February 10, 2020**

The Bernards Township Health Department Monitors New Coronavirus (February 10, 2020) –

The Bernards Township Health Department continues to work in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local hospitals, medical providers, and emergency medical service to respond to a new emerging coronavirus 2019-nCoV, which originated from Wuhan, China. The amount of United States cases stands at 12 cases with several still under investigation. There has been 1 US death occurring outside of the US in China. Thus far there have not been any confirmed cases in New Jersey. For current numbers, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

The 2019-nCoV is still considered to be a serious public health concern based on current information, however the immediate health risk from the 2019-nCoV to the American public is still considered low at this time. Outbreaks of novel (new) virus infections among people are always a public health concern, but regular training prepares public health staff and partners to handle emerging disease outbreaks like the 2019-nCoV.

We are currently in the middle cold and flu season, so you may experience similar symptoms to the coronavirus. Unless you have traveled to the affected areas in the world, there is little concern for exposure to 2019-nCoV. As with all respiratory illnesses, it is good practice to wash your hands often, stay away from people that appear ill, or have been ill and stay home if you are sick. For information on proper hand hygiene, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/hand/handwashing.html>.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. There are several known coronaviruses that infect people, and these usually only cause mild respiratory diseases, such as the common cold. However, at least two previously identified coronaviruses have caused severe disease – severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). Symptoms of the 2019-nCoV include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. There are currently no proven treatments or vaccines for this respiratory disease, so it is important to contact your doctor if you have traveled and are experiencing any of these symptoms. For more information on coronaviruses, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html> and <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>. To get 24/7 information on 2019-nCoV, call the New Jersey Department of Health Hotline at 1-800-222-1222

The Bernards Township Health Department is the contractual health agency serving Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Chester Borough, Long Hill Township, Mendham Borough, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough. For update links and more information, visit: <http://www.bernardshealth.org>.