

## **Respiratory Disease Caused by a Novel Coronavirus in China**

### **Novel Coronavirus**

- There is an outbreak of respiratory disease (which affects breathing) caused by a novel (new) virus centered in Wuhan, China. Possible infections with this new virus are now being reported in other regions of China and in some travelers from Wuhan to other Asian countries.
- This novel virus belongs to a family of viruses called “coronavirus.” There are other viruses in the coronavirus family that can cause illness in both humans and animals. These viruses can cause either mild illness like a cold or can make people very sick with pneumonia. This particular coronavirus has not been seen previously in humans.
- Most people with these infections are from Wuhan, and many of them reported being at a large seafood and live animal market there, suggesting that the virus goes from animal to person. Health officials closed the market on January 1, 2020, for cleaning and disinfection, and the market has not been reopened.
- A growing number of patients say that they have not passed through or shopped in animal markets, suggesting that some patients may be catching the infection from other people. Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads.
- There is no vaccine or treatment available for this or other coronaviruses.

### **Symptoms of Infection With This Novel Coronavirus**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### **How Does This Novel Coronavirus Spread?**

- Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. It is probably spread from animals to humans, and it also may be spread from person to person.

## What Can Travelers Do to Protect Themselves?

Travelers to Wuhan should:

- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

If you recently traveled to Wuhan and have a fever and cough or shortness of breath, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- After you have been seen by a medical provider, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Avoid further travel until the illness resolves.
- Wear a face mask if you need to leave your home when sick.
- 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. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

A small number of travelers from Wuhan to other countries have been diagnosed with respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus. Many countries, including the United States, have started to check travelers from Wuhan for fever and other symptoms of this infection. Individuals with these symptoms are being tested for common causes of respiratory infections, and some are also being screened for infection with this novel coronavirus using special lab tests. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NYC Health Department are closely monitoring this outbreak.

Visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information.