



# CROOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*"A Healthy and Safe Future for the People of Crook County"*

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**Friday, January 31, 2020**

**Crook County Health Department MEMO:**

**Novel Coronavirus - Designated "2019 novel coronavirus" aka 2019-nCoV**

To All Crook County and City of Prineville staff/employees:

Many of you may have either seen in the news or heard through social media, friends and family about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. This new emerging virus originated in Wuhan, China.

Please know that your local Crook County Health Department is participating in multiple meetings each week in the way of workgroups and conference calls with our local tri-county representation, Oregon Health Authority and CDC and we are very closely monitoring every aspect of what is happening globally and in the USA.

The Tri-County Health Departments are working closely with St. Charles and local Medical facilities to continue to prepare for and enhance response to not just this but any health related threat to our communities.

**What we know:**

**Acknowledgement of Public Concern & Risk Assessment**

- Many people have been interested in following the story of novel (new) coronavirus so please be aware that the news can lead to more concern for some.
- Risk of getting the disease is related to exposure. At this time, CDC has only seen 1 case of novel coronavirus spreading from person to person in the US and this is within the family of one of the original confirmed cases in Illinois. Based on that information, we currently believe that the risk to most Oregonians is low.
- The situation is changing hourly, so we will continue to reassess risks to Oregonians and update the public if that assessment changes.

**Outbreak Information**

- As of January 30, 2020, there are no known cases of novel coronavirus in Oregon.
- The first reported case of this virus in the United States was January 21, 2020 in Washington State. The case had recently traveled from Wuhan, China. As of the morning of January 30<sup>th</sup> we have 6 cases in the US in 4 states. Washington State, California, Arizona and Illinois.
- Cases have been confirmed in 18 other countries, primarily in travelers who had been to Wuhan, China.
- Most cases have been in Wuhan, a city of 11 million in China. CDC and WHO, as well as China's National Health Commission, will offer national and international case numbers as they update.

## Novel Coronavirus: Disease Information

- The new coronavirus is a virus that causes mild to severe illness in the lungs.
- **Symptoms:** People who are ill with the virus may have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing.
- **Incubation:** We do not know how long it takes for signs of illness to show up after someone is exposed to novel coronavirus. With other coronaviruses, signs of illness usually show up 2–14 days after a person is exposed to the virus.  
**Level of Risk:** Early information suggests that older adults and people with underlying health conditions may have a higher risk of severe illness and complications from this virus.
- Many of the deaths that have been reported were older individuals with underlying health conditions.
  - **Transmission:** We are still learning about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses are spread through animals or droplets from the coughs and sneezes of people who have the illness.

There is no guidance for US residents to wear masks in public.

## Travel Guidance

- **CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China.** For more information check the [CDC travel alert](#).
- **The situation is changing quickly, and CDC's travel advisories may continue to change.** Travelers should check CDC's travel information for their destination prior to travel.
- If you have been to China within the past 14 days and are ill with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, contact your healthcare provider to identify the safest way to seek care. This is to prevent exposing others.
- CDC is screening travelers from China, including those who have itineraries with connecting flights, for signs of illness at several major international airports. CDC is currently evaluating the extent and how long they will do enhanced screening.

## General public questions and concerns

- Comparisons to other diseases
  - We do not know enough about this virus to say how similar or different it is to other viruses.
    - There have been public comparisons to MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and 1918 influenza virus.
- How can I protect myself and my family:
  - Consistent thorough hand washing and using hand sanitizer.
  - Stay home if you are sick and if you are seeing symptoms similar to this virus make an appointment right way with your doctor / care giver.
  - Be aware that you are more likely to be exposed to influenza this time of year than you are to the new coronavirus. Influenza rates are still on the rise. It's not too late to get a flu shot if you haven't already.

- Preparedness – How prepared do I need to be?
  - For any major emergency / disaster in our county you need to have your home and your family prepared for a minimum of 30 days with food, water, alternate heat source, alternate cooking source, warm clothing, prescription medications

#### References

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- CDC 2019-nCoV page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/novel-coronavirus-china>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>