

# TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT OLIVE

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### **Mount Olive Township Health Department/Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update – 2/26/2020**

#### **What is the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?**

2019 Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, is a strain of the Coronavirus that has only spread in people since December 2019. Individuals who have been diagnosed with 2019-nCoV have symptoms that may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Health Officials are still learning about the illness caused by the new strain of the virus. People who have been diagnosed with 2019-nCoV have symptoms that may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Illness associated with exposure have ranged from mild (similar to the common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires medical care in a hospital. To date, 2019-nCoV related deaths have been reported mainly in older adults with prior health conditions. Exposure to 2019-nCoV can occur in the following ways:

- Via 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
- In rare cases, exposure to fecal matter of an infected individual

As of February 23, 2020, the risk in the U.S. to the general public is considered low. Fourteen cases have been diagnosed in the United States, and an additional 39 cases have occurred among repatriated persons from high-risk settings, for a current total of 53 cases within the United States. No deaths have been reported in the United States.

#### **What is the MOT Health Department doing in preparation of a potential 2019-nCoV case?**

Through participation in webinars and conference calls, the MOT Health Department is working closely with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to closely monitor the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Essential MOT Health Department Staff are participating in weekly training webinars regarding establishing case definitions for 2019-nCoV, reviewing NJDOH activities, and local health department responsibilities such as interviewing and monitoring the health of suspect cases.

#### **How will the MOT Health Department respond to a 2019-nCoV case?**

Within 24 hours of receiving the contact information of a “risk exposure” traveler, NJDOH will contact the MOT Health Department to initiate contact with the person to evaluate risk, assess their health

status, give instructions for active monitoring and provide 24/7 contacts for the department. Once under active monitoring, once per day communication with the MOT Health Department will be required. This can be done via email, phone, video, or as a last resort, a site visit. During the communication, the MOT Health Department will record temperatures and confirm the absence of COVID-19-like symptoms; this monitoring will include weekends and holidays. The Determination of Risk Category and Appropriate Public Health Action Based guidance document provided by the CDC will be utilized to help guide optimal public health management of people following potential 2019-nCoV exposure. Exposure Risk Categories for Asymptomatic Individuals established by NJDOH will also be utilized to monitor and restrict activity movement of suspected cases. In case of a potential outbreak, the MOT Health Department, will work with the County Health Department and with Administration/OEM to conduct risk communication, and if available conduct vaccination clinics. The MOT Health Department has an all-hazards emergency response plan that includes response to biological emergencies.

To date, the State Health Department has not reported any individuals to the MOT Health Department for monitoring.

Finally, it is important to remember that the CDC estimates that at a minimum, 29 million Americans have contracted the seasonal flu and 16,000 have died from it this flu season.

2019-nCoV is a fluid situation; the information in this Update is accurate as of February 26, 2020. Please contact the MOT Health Department at 973-691-0900 if you have any questions.