



Alameda County  
Health Care Services Agency

## **ALAMEDA COUNTY ISSUED A HEALTH ALERT ABOUT NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019 WUHAN PNEUMONIA OUTBREAK**

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring an outbreak of a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China that began in December 2019.

There are more than 500 confirmed cases in several countries including China, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

The first confirmed case in the United States was reported in Washington state on January 21, 2020.

Residents of the Bay Area are at low risk of becoming infected, unless they recently traveled to Wuhan or come in close contact with someone who was ill and who recently traveled to that area.

### **WHAT IS ALAMEDA COUNTY DOING IN RESPONSE?**

The Bay Area Health Officers have developed a shared regional approach with media and public health interventions. Alameda County Health Care Services Agency's Public Health Department, in partnership with the City of Berkeley, has issued a [health alert](#), and is providing ongoing guidance to area hospitals, emergency providers, and clinics.

### **WHAT IS 2019-nCoV?**

2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a part of a large family of viruses, which includes Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS), called coronaviruses.

Both MERS and SARS are known to cause severe illness in people, but the severity of 2019-nCoV is still unclear. While there are at least 17 deaths reported in China, other patients have had milder illness and been discharged. There is no vaccine.

### **WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF THE INFECTION?**

Symptoms include high fever or cough and shortness of breath. Having these symptoms and either having traveled to Wuhan in the last 14 days or come into contact with someone who may have 2019-nCoV would make a person more likely to need immediate medical evaluation.

### **WHAT CAN I SAY TO PATIENTS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY?**

- Follow the [CDC's guidance for travelers](#).
- Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands with soap and water and cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- If you traveled to Wuhan and feel sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing, 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.**
- Travelers arriving from Wuhan are being screened at SFO, LAX, and JFK in the United States, and ATL and Chicago will start as early as January 25, 2020.
- More information is available on the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- Visit <http://www.acphd.org/health-alerts.aspx> for more health care provider guidance.
- Please direct questions to [nCov@acgov.org](mailto:nCov@acgov.org)