



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Facts

Feb 25, 2020 – Stay informed about “novel coronavirus” and take steps to keep yourself and others safe

San Francisco has declared a local emergency in response to COVID-19

San Francisco is declaring a local health emergency to prepare for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This will mobilize city resources, streamline staffing, coordinate agencies across the city, allow for future reimbursement by state and federal governments and raise awareness throughout San Francisco about how everyone can prepare in the event that COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) appears in our community.

Why is this happening now?

Although there are still zero confirmed cases in San Francisco residents, the global picture is changing rapidly, and we need to step-up preparedness. Given the high volume of international travel from SF, there is a growing likelihood that we will see cases eventually. If and when this occurs, the Health Department will make an announcement, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Who is at risk?

Currently, Bay Area residents remain at low risk of becoming infected with COVID-19, unless they have recently traveled to areas with community transmission of the virus, or have come in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The biggest risk is travel to Mainland China, but as the global situation evolves, travelers should get the most updated information from the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. Your risk for this virus depends on travel history, not on race, ethnicity or culture.

Tips to protect yourself and others

1. Wash hands with soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds
2. Cover your cough or sneeze
3. Stay home if you are sick
4. Get your flu shot to protect against flu or symptoms similar to novel coronavirus
5. If you have recently returned from a country with ongoing COVID-19 infections monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials

Do I need to wear a mask or cancel my social activities?

At this time, there is no recommendation to wear masks or cancel your activities. If you have a fever or cough, stay home. If you must go out, you can use a face mask to prevent spread of germs to others. Face masks are NOT a substitute for handwashing.

What can I do to prepare?

You can prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak:

1. Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family
2. Make a child care plan if you or a care giver are sick
3. Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure
4. Make a plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself
5. Get up to date info at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

Federal Orders for returning travelers as of February 3

Foreign nationals returning from China will not be allowed entry into the U.S. unless they are immediate family of U.S. citizens or permanent residents. All U.S. citizens returning from Hubei Province, China: mandatory 14-day quarantine by the federal government. U.S. citizens returning from other parts of mainland China who DO have symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath) will also be under a mandatory quarantine. U.S. citizens returning from other parts of mainland China who DO NOT have fever, cough or shortness of breath will self-quarantine at home with monitoring by their local health department.