

<b>What is Coronavirus?</b>	Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.
<b>What are the Symptoms of COVID-19?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· fever</li> <li>· cough</li> <li>· shortness of breath</li> </ul>
<b>How does the disease spread?</b>	The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now it seems to be spreading from person to person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some diseases are highly contagious (like measles), while other diseases are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading between people.
<b>What is the Treatment?</b>	There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19 at this time. Medical care can help to relieve symptoms. There is active work on antiviral medication and vaccine development.
<b>What is the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) doing?</b>	<p>MDH has a strong disease surveillance system in place that includes partnerships with hospital and clinic systems. Finding cases quickly and responding to them effectively is key.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sending information to health care providers with recommendations for screening and testing</li> <li>2. Updating providers and local public health with new information</li> <li>3. Monitoring travelers for symptoms</li> <li>4. Outreach to community organizations that serve Chinese Minnesotans</li> <li>5. Outreach to area schools</li> </ol>

<p><b>What is local Public Health doing?</b></p>	<p>Public Health emergency preparedness plans are in place for situations such as this where people in our county may need self-isolation and/or quarantine measures. We have recently reviewed our plans and feel prepared to provide monitoring, if needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weekly calls with MDH for updates and recommendations</li> <li>2. Meetings/calls to collaborate with the county Health and Medical Group (includes county medical partners, emergency managers and law enforcement)</li> <li>3. Providing updates to area providers, as needed</li> <li>4. Updating internal staff</li> <li>5. Following and distributing recommendations from MDH and CDC</li> </ol>
<p><b>What is involved with monitoring and/or home isolation?</b></p>	<p>MDH is currently handling monitoring of any PUI (person under investigation) in our state. There are no confirmed cases in our state at this time. When an individual is considered a PUI (or any future confirmed cases), he/she will be asked to self-isolate (stay home) until the risk of secondary transmission to others is low (typically 14 days). During this time MDH (or local public health) will monitor those individuals by phone calls and/or email.</p>
<p><b>What can I do?</b></p>	<p><b>Basic general public health recommendations</b> are very important in the setting of an outbreak of a new communicable disease. Measures that can be used to <u>decrease and slow</u> the spread of any virus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.</li> <li>✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.</li> <li>✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.</li> <li>✓ Stay home when you are sick.</li> <li>✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.</li> <li>✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. There are no current recommendations for use of specific cleaners.</li> </ul> <p>At this point, Center for Disease Control (CDC) does <b>not</b> recommend the use of facemasks as a preventive measure for the general public. Facemasks are typically used in clinical settings to prevent spread of diseases from ill patients to health care workers who are in close contact with them.</p>
<p><b>Where can I find credible information?</b></p>	<p><a href="#">MDH Coronavirus information</a>  <a href="#">CDC Coronavirus information</a></p>