



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
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2019 Novel Coronavirus Guidance and Information from Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department

KALAMAZOO, MI— While there have been no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) reported in the State of Michigan and no persons under investigation or suspect cases in Kalamazoo County as of February 4, 2020, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is closely following updates to the guidance issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC is currently reporting eleven confirmed cases nationwide. The immediate health risk to the general U.S. public is considered low at this time. Additionally, there are no recommendations by federal, state, or local public health officials to cancel events or restrict travel within the United States. The CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for China (its highest level), recommending that all travelers avoid non-essential travel.

Effective February 3, all American citizens and exempted persons coming from China will be directed to one of 12 U.S. airports, including Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Depending on the travel of American citizens and exempted persons, additional health assessments are taking place that will direct further guidance for the traveler, MDHHS, and local public health departments.

"At this time, Kalamazoo County residents are at low risk for Novel Coronavirus infection. Local public health is actively monitoring the Novel Coronavirus outbreak and is working closely with state and federal public health authorities to provide accurate information to our community and to keep the risk of infection in Kalamazoo County low," says Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director for Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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The role of local public health, and the specific steps Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is taking during this outbreak, are as follows:

- Actively monitor 2019-nCoV outbreak
- Partner with state and federal agencies for communication and guidance on 2019-nCoV to the public and healthcare professionals
- Coordinate with state and federal agencies for risk assessment and action steps regarding persons returning from China on or after February 3, 2020.
- Coordinate with healthcare professionals on designating patients as a person under investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV
- Coordinate with healthcare systems on determining appropriate setting for evaluation and monitoring of PUI

While the immediate risk of this new virus to Kalamazoo County is believed to be low at this time, residents can help prevent the spread of viruses such as the flu, common cold, and coronavirus by taking the following preventative measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Individuals and organizations are highly encouraged to consult with Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department if they have questions or concerns regarding travel plans. For up-to-date information about the Novel Coronavirus, preventative measures, guidance for travelers, and frequently asked questions, please review the following resources:

- CDC Coronavirus, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov
- CDC Traveler's Health, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-wuhan-china>
- MDHHS Coronavirus, www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

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