Delaware General Health District
Dedicated to Your Health

Novel coronavirus (COVID-2019)

WHAT IS COVID-2019?

An outbreak of COVID-2019 (COVID-19) started in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is part of a large family of coronaviruses, some of which cause illness in people and others that circulate among animals. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people. This happened with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2014, and now COVID-19. These viruses may cause mild to severe respiratory illnesses with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Other early symptoms include chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting and runny nose.

HOW IS OHIO TRACKING COVID-19?

Ohio's public health system includes a team of state experts, local health departments and local partners that perform daily monitoring of reportable diseases, including COVID-19. The Health District is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in lockstep with the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is ready to respond if a case is reported in Delaware County.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CASE IS REPORTED?

- A case or suspected case of COVID-19 is reported to a local health department.
- ODH reports to the CDC and, if indicated, patient specimens will be collected and shipped.
- Currently, testing for this virus must take place at CDC.
- Local, state and federal partners will work together to investigate reports of COVID-19 in order to identify cases and prevent the spread of infection.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LIMIT RISK?

If you suspect you may have been exposed to COVID-19 because you have traveled to China or have been around people who may have been exposed and/or are exhibiting symptoms, contact your healthcare provider and let them know you may have been exposed to COVID-19 before visiting the healthcare facility. This will help the healthcare provider's office take precautionary steps to keep other people from being exposed.

Just as with influenza and other illnesses, it's critical to protect yourself by following these recommended tips:

- Practice good hand hygiene by frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Don't go to work or school when you feel ill. Stay home and rest.
- Avoid exposure to others who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

*On Feb. 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the current outbreak of coronavirus disease, COVID-19.