## Maricopa County
## Department of Public Health

**Administrative Offices**
4041 N Central Ave, #1400 • Phoenix, Arizona 85012
Phone: (602) 506-6900 • Fax: (602) 506-6885

**WeArePublicHealth.org**
Twitter.com/Maricopahealth
Facebook.com/MCDPH

# _Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) FAQ_
### _Updated 02.26.2020_

## _COMMUNITY CONCERNS_

### What is coronavirus disease 2019?

- Coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 (previously known as 2019 novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV), is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.
- It is part of a larger family of viruses called coronavirus, some of which are in circulation normally and can cause illnesses like the common cold. See the "About the Virus" section of this FAQ for more about this family of viruses.
- You can learn more about coronavirus disease 2019 at the CDC website.

### Has anyone in the United States been infected?

- Yes. Monitoring and testing are ongoing across the United States. A current case count table is available on the CDC website.
  - On January 26, 2020, Maricopa County announced its first confirmed case of 2019-nCoV.
  - The patient is a member of the Arizona State University community who does not live in university housing. There has been no classroom exposure associated with the case.
  - The person had very mild illness and was released from isolation in February 2020 after multiple negative tests from CDC. **There is no risk of COVID-19 to the community from this individual.**
- **This is a rapidly evolving situation.**
  - Please visit the Maricopa County Department of Public Health website for the most up-to-date and accurate information about what is going on in Maricopa County: Maricopa.gov/coronavirus
  - Please visit the CDC website for the most up-to-date information nationally.

### Am I at risk for 2019-nCoV infection in the United States?

- Currently, risk to the public in Maricopa County is extremely low.
- This is a rapidly-evolving situation and the risk assessment may change daily.
- Please visit the CDC website for the most up-to-date national information.

### Should I be tested for COVID-19?

- If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after travel from China, you should **call ahead** to a healthcare provider and mention your recent travel. Public health will work with your healthcare provider to get you tested if recommended.

- Individuals who are being monitored by public health will be given specific recommendations to seek care for testing for COVID-19, if needed.

### How can I protect myself?
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

### What if I recently traveled to Wuhan City and/or Hubei Province and/or China and got sick?
- If you were in China and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing within 14 days after you left China, **you should contact a healthcare provider.**
  - **Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room**, **call ahead** and tell them about your recent travel and symptoms.
  - Cover your nose and mouth with a mask **BEFORE** you enter the healthcare facility for medical evaluation.
- Avoid contact with others while sick.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus to others. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.


## *PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC*

### What is being done to prevent the spread of this illness?

Internationally:
- Chinese officials have quarantined Wuhan City. No travel is currently being allowed out of the city.
- However, several countries in the region have implemented health screenings for travelers entering from Wuhan City.
- See the CDC travel alert page for all countries that CDC has issued alerts for.

Nationally:
- Please see the CDC website for advice for travelers and situation updates.

Locally:
- MCDPH was in regular communication with individuals exposed to the COVID-19 case who are at risk of becoming infected. **Close contacts were monitored during the 14-day incubation period, and none developed COVID-19.**
- MCDPH is partnering with the Arizona Department of Health Services, CDC, and other partners.

o   Healthcare providers, including emergency rooms and first responders, are being briefed by MCDPH on how to respond to individuals with symptoms who have been exposed.

# *ABOUT THE VIRUS*

### What is coronavirus disease 2019?
- The coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, is a new respiratory disease first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.
- It is caused by a virus that is part of a larger family of viruses called coronavirus. See this chart comparing the family of viruses to the coronavirus strain that causes COVID-19.
- You can learn more about the virus at the CDC website.

### What is a novel coronavirus?
- A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified.

### What is a coronavirus?
- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. There are several known coronaviruses that infect people and usually only cause mild respiratory disease, such as the common cold.
- However, at least two previously identified coronaviruses have caused severe disease.
  - o Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).
  - o SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV are NOT the cause of the current outbreak.
- See this chart comparing the coronavirus family to the coronavirus strain that causes COVID-19.
- Coronaviruses are often found in animals, and some of these viruses have the capability of transmitting between animals and humans or from person-to-person.

### What is the source of coronavirus disease 2019?
- Public health officials and partners are working hard to identify the source of the COVID-19. Analysis of the genetic tree of this virus is ongoing to know the specific source of the virus.
- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats.
- Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting the virus likely emerged from an animal source.
  - o SARS, another coronavirus that emerged to infect people, came from civit cats, while MERS, another coronavirus that emerged to infect people, came from camels.

**What are the symptoms and complications that coronavirus disease 2019 can cause?**
- Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
- Read about COVID-19 symptoms at the CDC website.

**How does the virus spread?**
- This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so.
- It's not clear yet how easily COVID-19 spreads from person to person. When person-to-person spread has occurred with MERS and SARS, it is thought to have happened mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Spread of MERS and SARS between people has generally occurred between close contacts.

**Is it safe to travel to Wuhan, China or other countries where COVID-19 cases have occurred?**
- The situation is evolving. Stay up to date with CDC's travel health notices related to this outbreak. These notices will be updated as more information becomes available.

**Is there a vaccine?**
- Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19.

**What are the treatments?**
- There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19 infection. People infected with COVID-19 should receive treatment guidance from their healthcare providers.

**How do you test a person for COVID-19?**
- At this time, diagnostic testing for COVID-19 can be conducted only at CDC. Maricopa County will work closely with healthcare providers and the state health department to provide testing for individuals who meet the criteria.

**Is COVID-19 the same as the MERS-CoV or SARS virus?**
- **No, COVID-19 is not the same as MERS-CoV or SARS**. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats.
- The recently emerged COVID-19 is not the same as the coronavirus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) or the coronavirus that causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003.
- There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly-evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

**Should I be concerned about pets or other animals and COVID-19?**

- While this virus seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person. CDC recommends that people traveling to China avoid animals both live and dead, but there is no reason to think that any animals or pets in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus.

**What about animals or animal products imported from China?**

- CDC does not have any evidence to suggest that animals or animal products imported from China pose a risk for spreading COVID-19 in the United States. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

**Where can I go for more information?**

- Information is rapidly developing, you can find the most up-to-date national information about the novel coronavirus on the CDC website.
- Accurate, local information can be found at Maricopa.gov/coronavirus.