



Dear Patients,

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of the respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus - 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) - first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Some of our patients have been asking about the risk of the coronavirus in the U.S. and we want to offer you the most recent information and recommendations.

Please be reassured that the immediate risk of coronavirus to the American public is low. For perspective, compare it to the much higher risk posed by becoming ill with influenza (flu):

Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

- 2,000 confirmed cases in China
- 170 deaths
- 165 people who have been tested for it in the U.S.
- 6 confirmed cases in the U.S.
- Far less contagious than SARS, whooping cough or measles

Influenza (flu):

- 7,000,000 confirmed cases in the U.S.
- 140,000 hospitalizations in the U.S.
- 8,200 deaths due to the flu in the U.S.

Public health agencies around the globe, including the World Health Organization and the CDC, are keeping a careful eye on the coronavirus and taking steps to prevent illness from spreading. While the risk of 2019-nCoV is considered low in the U.S. at this time, the CDC urges all to do their part to help respond to this emerging public health threat:

Most importantly, stay healthy during the current flu and respiratory disease season by:

- Getting vaccinated for the flu or pneumonia
- Taking [everyday preventive actions](#) to stop the spread of germs
- Taking flu antivirals if prescribed

If you think you may have been exposed to 2019-nCoV (visited China in the last 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing): First, please call our office. Then, follow [CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others](#).

If you are traveling or planning a trip: Stay up to date with [CDC travel health notices related to this outbreak](#).

For additional information, we recommend these reputable sources: [CDC FAQs on Coronavirus](#) and the [World Health Organization on Coronavirus](#).

If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to call our office.

Wishing you the best of health,

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