



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County
General Health District**

January 28, 2020

Possible Cases of Coronavirus in Butler County

Earlier today, Miami University Student Health Services notified the Butler County General Health District (BCGHD) of two possible cases of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Both possible cases had recently traveled and returned from China. Both possible cases are not severely ill and currently in isolation to keep the illness from spreading. Samples were sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Monday afternoon.

Unless you have recently traveled from China or have been around someone ill with this new virus, your risk of getting sick is low. If you have traveled from China and are, experiencing signs and symptoms contact your doctor BEFORE going to the office. Miami students, who meet this criteria, and are experiencing signs or symptoms contact Student Health Services at 513-529-3000 before seeking care.

Public health officials have described the immediate health risk to the campus community as low. BCGHD continues to work closely with Miami University Student Health Services and the Ohio Department of Health to monitor the novel (new) coronavirus that has emerged from Wuhan, China, over the past few weeks.

“This is what public health does and why we train,” expressed Jennifer Bailer. “Our staff, officials at Miami University and the Ohio Department of Health are taking every precaution to keep the community safe. The same precautions that protect against catching and spreading the flu are likely to be helpful for this respiratory virus: Wash your hands regularly, avoid touching your nose and eyes, cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze and don’t go to work if ill. Displaying compassion to all people will be vital as the situation evolves.”

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available. Guidance on the virus is available on the [Centers for Disease Control website, www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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What You Need to Know

- There are **NO CONFIRMED** cases of novel Coronavirus in Butler County currently.
- This is an evolving situation, the CDC website is the best source of up to the minute information. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html#risk-assessment>
- If needed, we will post Butler County specific updates on our website <http://health.bcoho.us/>
- While CDC considers this a serious public health concern, based on current location, the immediate health *risk to the general American public is considered low at this time.*

What is the Novel (new) Coronavirus?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html#risk-assessment>

Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world. Seven different known coronaviruses can infect people and make them sick. Some were identified many years ago and some more recently.

What are the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus?

Symptoms are similar to other respiratory viruses. If you have these symptoms, it does not necessarily mean you have this new virus! Unless you have recently traveled to Wuhan, China or have been around someone ill with this new virus, your risk of getting sick is near zero.

Symptoms include:

- Fever (may not always be present)
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Other early symptoms to look for include:

- Chills
- Body aches
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/vomiting
- Runny nose

What You Can Do

If you have not traveled to China or have not been in contact with a person known or suspected to have the illness, *there is no reason to be concerned at this time.*

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/china#travel-notices>

If you have traveled recently to Wuhan, China, had close contact with someone who has been confirmed with, or is being evaluated for the Coronavirus, you should:

- Monitor your health for 14 days, from the day you first traveled or had close contact with someone ill with this new Coronavirus. Watch for signs and symptoms listed above.
- Call your doctor, urgent care or hospital BEFORE going. They will give you instructions.
- If you have symptoms, stay away from other people until you receive instructions.

How can I protect myself from Coronavirus and other viruses?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds frequently. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer. Avoid contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers:

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00424.asp>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>

Limited information is available to characterize the spectrum of clinical illness associated with the outbreak. No vaccine or specific treatment is available; care is supportive.

Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. This virus is now in more places than Wuhan, China.

Details are emerging. The most important things to do are:

- Know the symptoms of concern
- Ask every patient displaying respiratory symptoms a detailed travel history and exposure history
- Isolate anyone who has positive symptoms and a questionable travel history or exposure, ideally in an airborne infection isolation room if available.
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when around a Patient Under Investigation (PUI)
 - The Ohio Department of Health is recommending the use of N95 respirator masks
 - Eye protection (goggles or a face shield)
- Call your local health district immediately. Instructions for obtaining samples will be provided.

Healthcare providers should immediately notify their local health district in the event of a PUI for 2019-nCoV. The Butler County General Health District phone number is 513-863-1770, after hours emergency-only number is 877-774-4636.

Additional Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html> World

Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>

Butler County General Health District: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>