



DC 37 Safety & Health Fact Sheet

2019 Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)

There is a new Coronavirus strain that causes respiratory illnesses and can be transmitted from person to person. The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) strain was discovered and identified in Wuhan, China during an investigation into an outbreak of respiratory illnesses.

Symptoms may include

- Fever
- Running nose
- Cough
- Headache
- Sore throat

This Novel Coronavirus strain can cause lower respiratory tract illnesses such as bronchitis or pneumonia. People with pre-existing medical conditions, weakened immune systems and the elderly may be more susceptible to complications from this virus.

Diagnosis

The coronavirus is diagnosed through laboratory testing. At this time testing is done at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), NY State and in NYC. There is no vaccine or medication for the virus, at this time. People presenting possible symptoms should seek medical attention.

Prevention

It is advised that the same precautions used during cold & flu season be implemented:

- Cover nose and mouth with tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water. You can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if not feeling well.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get the flu shot, it's not too late.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness.

For more information, see links below:

1. For Health Care Professionals – cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html
2. NYC DOHMH – www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page
3. NYS Health Dept. – health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/
4. Centers for Disease Control – www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/

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