

Contact: Sarah Isom, MPH, CHES
Emergency Response Coordinator,
Public Information Officer
isomsf@forsyth.cc | 336-703-3122

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Update on 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Feb. 04, 2020 | Winston-Salem, NC: The Forsyth County Department of Public Health is working with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), other local health departments and health care providers as well as community partners including the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emergency Management Office to prepare for any future potential cases of novel coronavirus in Forsyth County.

There are no current cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Forsyth County. At present, the majority of cases have been diagnosed in people who live in or have traveled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Currently, the risk for infection locally is extremely low; however, usual prevention methods are recommended to prevent any further infections.

Travelers to or from Wuhan who develop a fever or respiratory symptoms, including cough and difficulty breathing within two weeks of traveling through Wuhan should contact their doctor right away and should call ahead before going to the clinic, urgent care, or emergency room so appropriate steps can be taken to avoid exposing others.

Symptoms of the virus include fever and lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). The illness can be more serious for individuals with a weakened immune system, the elderly, or those with underlying respiratory problems. If you traveled to China in the last 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to visit your medical provider, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Avoid non-essential 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. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

All Forsyth County medical personnel and first responders have been informed about the 2019 novel coronavirus to ensure the public's safety, should Forsyth County encounter a case of novel coronavirus. Members of the public with questions are encouraged to call the North Carolina Division of Public Health's call line at 1-866-462-3821.

For up-to-date information about the outbreak, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

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