



Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department

211 Sixth Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Press Release

Contact Information:

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department

Carrie Brainard

304-420-1479

Carrie.L.Brainard@wv.gov

Update on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

For Immediate Release

Parkersburg, WV, January 30, 2020 – While there have been cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the United States, there are no cases under investigation in West Virginia. As of January 30, five infections with 2019-nCoV have been reported in the U.S. in four states – Arizona, California, Illinois and Washington.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are continuing to conduct enhanced entry screenings of passengers who have been in Wuhan within the past 14 days at five designated U.S. airports. Given that travel out of Wuhan has been shut down, the number of passengers who meet these criteria is dwindling. CBP officials will monitor travelers with symptoms compatible to 2019-nCoV infection and the travel connection with China and will refer them to CDC staff for evaluation.

Outbreaks like this – when a new virus is emerging to infect people – are always concerning. Some people might be worried about this virus and how it may impact Americans. While this situation poses a serious health threat, CDC believes the immediate risk to the U.S. public is low. Risks also depends on exposure. People exposed to ill persons are at greater risk of infection such as healthcare workers and family members caring for people with 2019-CoV. The goal of the ongoing U.S. public health response is to contain this outbreak and prevent sustained spread of 2019-nCoV in this country.

While the risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help us respond to this potential public threat. It is currently flu and respiratory disease season and the CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine and taking every day preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs and if prescribed, taking the flu antivirals.

For more information please visit the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak page at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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