1. **WHAT IS A CORONAVIRUS?**
   
   A coronavirus describes a large number of viruses that usually cause mild respiratory illness. But there are coronaviruses that have caused more severe illness, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). Novel coronavirus 2019 is a new coronavirus and can cause pneumonia. Other terms you may see used to name this virus include: 2019-nCoV, COVID-19, or SARS-CoV-2).

2. **WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS?**
   
   Most coronaviruses cause respiratory illnesses, including cough and fever. Coronaviruses are one of the viruses that can cause the common cold. Symptoms may include runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat and/or fever.

3. **WHERE DID THIS VIRUS COME FROM AND HOW IS IT SPREAD?**
   
   Like MERS and SARS, COVID-19 closely resembles coronaviruses found in bats but not humans. Scientists believe that the bat virus had a change in its genes that permitted it to spread to humans, possibly via an intermediate carrier (snakes) in an animal market in Wuhan, China. Early on, it is difficult to know the exact source of the virus, how well it spreads from person to person, and how severe the infection is. The virus can be transmitted from person to person via droplets that come from the nose or mouth when we cough or sneeze. Those droplets can directly enter the nose, mouth or eyes of a person standing close by, or they can be indirectly transmitted by hands and inanimate objects.

   Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through: the air by coughing and sneezing, close personal contact like shaking hands, or touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.

4. **WHAT ARE RISKS FOR GETTING THE VIRUS?**
   
   Risk depends on exposure. The risk to the general U.S. public is considered low at this time. People who have traveled from China in the last 14 days or who are close contacts of someone with a confirmed case of the 2019 novel coronavirus are at higher risk and are being monitored.

5. **DID THE PERSON WITH CORONAVIRUS EXPOSE ANYONE IN OUR COUNTY?**
   
   The person sought medical attention soon after symptoms developed and followed procedures to reduce potential exposures. He was quickly isolated according to CDC guidance. It does not appear that he infected anyone else. Public health staff followed up with his close contacts and multiple specimens were sent to the CDC for testing. None of the close contacts tested positive.
6. IS THERE A VACCINE FOR 2019 CORONAVIRUS?
At this time, there is no vaccine for coronavirus. Efforts are underway to develop a vaccine. However, it is not clear that an effective vaccine will emerge in time to have an impact on this epidemic. Until that time, we must proceed as though it will not be available.

You can help prevent the spread of illness by washing hands often with soap and running water, staying home if you are sick, avoiding close contact with others who are sick, covering your coughs or sneezes with a tissue, and cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces.

7. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET SICK?
If you have traveled from China or been in close contact with someone with confirmed novel coronavirus 2019 and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your health care provider BEFORE going to get care and tell them about your symptoms and travel. They can provide you instructions for seeking care so that you do not expose others.

There are many causes of fevers, coughs, and other respiratory symptoms. Most clinics have surgical masks that you may be asked to wear while in the clinic. Please protect others and wear a mask if asked. Wash your hands. Cover your cough or sneeze. If you are ill, stay home.

8. IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL TO CHINA?
The CDC recommends that people avoid non-essential travel to the People’s Republic of China (not including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, or the island of Taiwan).

Prior to any trip, be sure to check CDC travel notices at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices.

Temporary travel and quarantine measures have been put in place by the federal government as of February 2, 2020. Any U.S. citizen or resident returning to the U.S. who has been in Hubei Province and other parts of mainland China in the last 14 days is subject to health screening and up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine.

9. IF I (OR SOMEONE I KNOW) HAS BEEN TO CHINA RECENTLY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
If you traveled to China or have been in close contact with someone who has confirmed novel coronavirus 2019 and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should:

• Seek medical care right away. Before you go to the doctor’s office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
• Avoid contact with others.
• Do not 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.
10. **HOW IS THIS VIRUS TREATED?**

The vast majority (at least 98-99%) of people with COVID-19 recover just with their own immune response. Treatment is supportive care for symptoms, fluid intake, and isolation/observation. About 10-20% of cases appear to have severe enough disease to require hospitalization. Those patients also receive supportive care and treatment for complications of the infection (pneumonia, problems breathing, etc.). One experimental anti-viral treatment is being studied in China, but its effectiveness has not yet been demonstrated.

11. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**


A statewide hot line also has been set up at 1-800-525-0127, then press 1.