

## Information About Coronavirus for the LCCC Campus Community

At this time, no suspected or confirmed cases of Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) have been reported to LCCC officials. We will continue to update all members of the LCCC community as this global health concern continues to unfold in the United States.

It is important for everyone to stay well informed about the virus, including what you can do to prevent infection, and what you can do if you become sick. The best source of regularly updated information is the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) website. You can also visit the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) website for additional local information.

### **What is novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?**

2019-nCoV is a newly identified coronavirus that is causing an outbreak of pneumonia illness. It was first identified in December 2019 in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

Since then, the virus has been identified in multiple other countries, including cases in the U.S.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [human coronaviruses](#) are common throughout the world and usually cause mild to moderate illness in people. This new virus is a public health concern because:

- It is newly identified, so much is still unknown about it.
- Two other human coronaviruses, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, have caused severe illness.

### **What is the risk?**

The CDC considers this new virus a public health concern based on current information. However, the immediate health risk to the general US public is considered low at this time. The CDC and the World Health Organization are closely monitoring the situation and providing ongoing guidance.

### **Symptoms and transmission:**

[Symptoms](#) may be flu-like, ranging from mild to serious, and include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing.

Person-to-person spread is occurring, although it's unclear exactly how it is transmitted and how easily the virus spreads between people.

## **If you are planning to travel:**

If you are planning to travel, please check the CDC [Information for Travel](#) webpages for the most up-to-date information regarding destinations where travel warnings, alerts and watches are in effect due to identification of coronavirus outbreaks. If you cannot avoid travel to these destinations, the site also provides additional information to assist you including [frequently asked questions and answers](#).

In general, when you travel:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- 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.
- Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues may be at risk for more severe disease and should discuss travel with their health care provider.

## **Treatment:**

People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection.

## **Prevention:**

There is no vaccine to prevent this virus, and the CDC advises that the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Here are everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Do not use your hand.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## **Recommendations for people with respiratory symptoms:**

**If you have symptoms of fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing and in the last 14 days you:**

- Traveled to an affected region where outbreaks have occurred as indicated in [CDC Information for Travel](#).
- Had close contact with someone who had traveled to an affected region and had respiratory symptoms.

### **You should:**

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms. Follow their instructions to access medical care.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Do not travel while sick. Please do not get on public transportation or just arrive at a medical facility. Call ahead.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Do not use your hand.
- 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.

## **How LCCC is responding**

In addition to our usual efforts to keep our campuses clean, the college is instituting additional precautionary measures, such as:

- Hand sanitizers will be available throughout main campus and at the sites.
- Posters will be hung in all restrooms to remind people of the best way to prevent the spread of germs.
- Periodic updates and information about the virus will be sent to all students, faculty and staff.
- Staff will be vigilant about frequently cleaning surfaces, keyboards, desktops in computer commons and labs, and other commonly touched items. You are also encouraged to keep work and study areas clean.
- Instructors will work with students who must miss class because of illness. The college encourages everyone to stay home if they are sick.