



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE  
**Coronavirus Disease 2019  
(COVID-19) Outbreak**

March 3, 2020

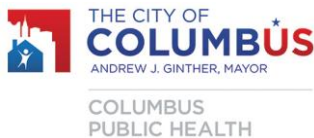
Columbus Public Health &  
Franklin County Public Health

The outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which originated in Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019, has now spread throughout China. Sustained transmission and outbreaks have also occurred in Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea. Although thought to be zoonotic in origin, human-to-human transmission is currently the primary mode of transmission with 88,948 cases and 3,043 deaths in 66 countries, including 88 cases in the United States. To date, no cases have been confirmed in Ohio. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

Recognizing persons at risk for COVID-19 is a critical component of identifying cases and preventing further transmission. With expanding spread of COVID-19, additional areas of geographic risk have been identified and criteria for testing have been updated to reflect this spread. To prepare for possible additional person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in the United States, clinicians and public health should consider COVID-19 in patients with severe respiratory illness that requires hospitalization, even in the absence of travel history to affected areas or known exposure to another case.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has just issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Update <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00428.asp> with updated guidance and recommendations for evaluation and testing of persons under investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19, including those with travel history in Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>.

Please report suspected cases of COVID-19 immediately to Infectious Disease Reporting System (IDRS) via phone at 614-525-8888 to coordinate potential testing of specimens at CDC.



**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
Healthcare Provider Guidance**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

**Infectious Disease Reporting System**  
<http://idrsinfo.org>