

**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Update #2**

**2/21/2020**

The situation of COVID-19 continues to develop. The National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization continue to monitor this evolving situation.

NJ TRANSIT also continues to follow the lead of the CDC, World Health Organization, and state and local Department of Health officials, regarding ways to avoid contracting the virus.

The NJ TRANSIT Internal Task Force continues to meet bi-weekly in order to coordinate communication, provide status updates, and ensure that our employee population is educated and provided with appropriate guidance.

Weekly status updates will continue to be disseminated at the close of each business week.

**Here’s what we know as of today:**

CDC has worked with the Department of State, supporting the safe return of Americans who have been stranded as a result of the ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19 and related travel restrictions. CDC has worked to assess the health of passengers as they return to the United States and provided continued daily monitoring of people who are quarantined.

As of 2/19/2020, there are still no confirmed cases of any individual infected with the virus in the State of New Jersey.

**The general public is still not considered at risk at this time.** For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is still considered to be very low at this time.

**Masks are NOT recommended for the general public.**  They can be helpful for a sick person to prevent the spread of larger droplets during a cough or a sneeze.  
  
The CDC discourages any non-necessary travel to China at this time.

If you have been in China or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face some limitations on your movement and activity. Please follow instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider, and tell them about your symptoms and your travel or exposure to a COVID-19 patient (CDC, 2020). If you receive a confirmed positive diagnosis, be sure to notify NJ TRANSIT Medical Services.

**COVID-19 in the U.S.**

*CDC Data as of February 19, 2020 (This data is updated regularly on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays).*

People Under Investigation (PUI) in the United States\*†

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Positive**\* | 15 |
| **Negative** | 412 |
| **Pending§** | 52 |
| **Total** | 479 |

\*Cumulative since January 21, 2020.  
†Numbers closed out at 7 p.m. the night of reporting (2/19/20).  
§Includes specimens received and awaiting testing, as well as specimens in route to CDC.

Number of states and territories with PUI: 42

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following everyday good practices:**

* 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 it in the trash right away.
* If you cannot do that, cough or sneeze into your elbow to avoid contaminating your hands.
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.

NJ TRANSIT Medical Services and the OEM Task Force will continue to monitor this situation. As conditions change, further information will be made available.

**Additional Resources**

**NJ TRANSIT Medical Services**

[Medical@njtransit.com](mailto:Medical@njtransit.com.)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[Coronavirus 2019 page](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

**World Health Organization**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>