



## Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

A newly identified virus, called Novel Coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV), has received a great deal of media coverage. The National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization are actively monitoring this evolving situation. New Jersey Transit is following the lead of the CDC, WHO, State and Local Department of Health officials, regarding ways to avoid contracting the virus.

In an effort to allay fears NJ TRANSIT has created a Task Force to communicate status updates, educate our employee population and provide guidance.

### Here's what we know as of today:

- **The general public is not considered at risk at this time.** Sick people you see in public or on our trains likely have something else—any number of cold viruses or possibly influenza. The chance that they have this virus is very low.
- As of 2/6/2020, there are no confirmed cases of any individual infected with the virus in the state of New Jersey. As a precaution there are several people under observation.
- Twelve (12) infected people are confirmed in the U.S., the vast majority of which had recent travel to China. The virus has the capacity to spread from person to person, but we don't yet know how contagious it is.
- The virus is causing a range of symptoms ranging from fever and mild symptoms to severe pneumonia and even death. Those that have died have had underlying conditions and complications of pneumonia.

**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.

**Masks are NOT recommended.** The masks that general public usually think of are surgical masks and do not offer protection against viruses. These masks provide a physical barrier but no tight fit, so people can still breathe in air and infected droplets. They are designed to stop large droplets and do not filter out particles as small as a virus. They can be helpful for a sick person to prevent the spread of larger droplets during a cough or a sneeze.

The CDC is also recommending against any non-necessary travel to China at this time.

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**

**New Jersey Transit Medical Services**

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

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[Coronavirus 2019 page](#)

**World Health Organization**

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