



For Immediate Release

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update/Info

A novel (new) coronavirus was recently detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and is causing an outbreak of respiratory disease. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization named the disease coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

Chinese health officials have reported tens of thousands of cases of COVID-19 in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person in parts of that country. COVID-19 illnesses, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, also are being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States. Some person-to-person spread of this virus outside China has been detected. The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread with this virus on January 30, 2020.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed multiple cases of novel coronavirus 2019 in people under federal quarantine at JBSA-Lackland in San Antonio. The first was a traveler who returned on a U.S. State Department-chartered flight from Wuhan City, China. The others returned on a State Department flight for passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined in Yokohama, Japan. The individuals will remain isolated at medical facilities until they test negative for the virus and are no longer at risk of spreading it. The CDC has the latest information on the number of people under quarantine who are infected and is updating its national numbers each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

There are no other cases in Texas, and these cases do not change the risk of infection for people in San Antonio or other parts of Texas, because the patients have been under federal quarantine since their return and have not interacted with the public in Texas communities. There has not been any community spread in Texas. The risk for all Texans remains low.

The seasonal flu is currently wide spread in Texas and the best way to prevent the seasonal flu and COVID-19:

- Get the flu vaccine.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available use alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow/arm or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Keep sick children home, and if you are sick, please stay home as well.

The City of Alvin is closely monitoring the situation along with Brazoria County Health Department, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the CDC. See the CDC website for the latest developments on COVID-19, including current case counts: www.cdc.gov

Other official information sources:

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) www.dshs.texas.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int