

CDC Daily Key Points
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) Outbreak

March 03, 2020

Updated text is shown in colored text.

SNAPSHOT

CDC has reported:

- 60 confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19
- 6 COVID-19 related deaths
- 12 states reporting cases of COVID-19

MAIN KEY POINTS

- There is an expanding global outbreak of respiratory illness called COVID-19 caused by a novel (new) coronavirus.
- Community spread is being detected in a [growing number of countries, including in parts of the United States](#).
- There are 60 reported U.S. cases of COVID-19 from 12 states.
- The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is high, both globally and to the United States. Individual risk is dependent on exposure.
- Under current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection. For example:
 - People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated though still relatively low risk of exposure.
 - Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
 - Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
 - Travelers returning from affected [international locations](#) where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Public health efforts at this time are focused concurrently on containing spread of this virus and mitigating the impact of this virus.
- At this time, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it.
- [Nonpharmaceutical interventions](#) are actions, apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine, that people and communities can take to help slow the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.
- Currently they are the most important response strategy against COVID-19.
- All communities can [take measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19](#). Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy.

SITUATION UPDATE

- On March 3, a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* Update was published titled [“Active Monitoring of Persons Exposed to Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 — United States, January–February 2020.”](#) (See Section “MMWR Update.”)

- As of March 3, 2020, [68](#) international locations (including the U.S.) have reported confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- [60 reported](#) cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Arizona, California, [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, [New Hampshire](#), Oregon, [Rhode Island](#), Washington and Wisconsin.
 - [11](#) of these cases occurred through person-to-person spread.
 - [22](#) cases all were in persons who had travel to China.
 - [27 cases where the source of exposure is still under investigation.](#)
- As of March 3, [CDC issued Travel Health Notices](#) for the following locations:
 - [Level 3 Travel Health Notice \(avoid non-essential travel\): China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy](#)
 - [Level 2 Travel Health Notices \(Practice Enhanced Precautions\): Japan](#)
 - [Level 1 \(practice usual precautions\): Hong Kong](#)
- CDC also recommends that all travelers reconsider cruise ship voyages into or within Asia at this time.
 - This is consistent with [guidance by the U.S. State Department](#).
- The situation is rapidly evolving. CDC is constantly reviewing and updating its guidance as needed.

REPORTING

- [More public health laboratories are able to test for the virus that causes COVID-19, and they are reporting their results publicly.](#)
- [Because states are reporting publicly directly, sometimes in near real-time, CDC case counts may be different from what states, local authorities, or media are reporting.](#)
- [If there are discrepancies between case counts reported by state or local officials versus CDC reported numbers, the numbers provided by states will be the most up-to-date.](#)
- [State health laboratories are reporting their results to CDC.](#)
- [CDC is consolidating state reports and combining them with CDC confirmed test results and presenting a national aggregated case count daily from Monday through Friday.](#)
- [Case counts submitted to CDC by 4pm the prior day will be posted at noon.](#)
- [CDC is reporting cumulative confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the United States since January 21, 2020.](#)
- [CDC is presenting data related to people who were repatriated via U.S. State Department flights from Wuhan, China and from the Diamond Princess cruise ship \(Japan\) in a separate chart available on the CDC website.](#)
- [CDC has discontinued reporting of the numbers of persons under investigation \(PUIs\) tested and those that tested negative.](#)
- [Now that states are testing and reporting their own results, CDC's numbers will not be representative of all the testing being done nationwide.](#)

MMWR UPDATE:

- On March 3, a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* Update was published titled [“Active Monitoring of Persons Exposed to Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 — United States, January–February 2020.”](#)
- This MMWR report summarizes the thorough steps that were taken during the early days of the COVID-19 response to track the country’s first the first 10 travel-related and the first 2 person-to-person (secondary from those travel-related cases) and their close contacts.
- CDC supported state/local public health officials as they tracked 445 close contacts of the first U.S. cases.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat:
 - It’s currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.
 - [Individuals and communities should familiarize themselves with recommendations to protect themselves and their community from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses like coronavirus disease 2019.](#)
 - If you are a healthcare provider, be on the look-out for people who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, and [people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread, and have fever and respiratory symptoms.](#)
 - If you are a healthcare provider caring for a COVID-19 patient or a public health responder, please take care of yourself and follow [recommended infection control procedures.](#)
 - If you have recently been to an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you may 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.
 - For people who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 who develop symptoms, contact your healthcare provider, and tell them about your symptoms and your exposure to a COVID-19 patient.
 - For people who are ill with COVID-19, please follow [CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others.](#)

CDC ACTIONS

- The federal government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this public health threat.
- The public health response is multi-layered, with the goal of detecting and minimizing introductions of this virus in the United States to reduce the spread and the impact of this virus.

- CDC is operationalizing all of its pandemic preparedness and response plans, working on multiple fronts to meet these goals, including specific measures to prepare communities to respond local transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Pandemic guidance developed in anticipation of an influenza pandemic is being repurposed and adapted for a COVID-19 pandemic.
- Public health partners are encouraged to review their pandemic preparedness plans at this time.
- CDC is aggressively responding to the global outbreak of COVID-19 and preparing for the potential of community spread in the United States.
- **CDC's Action for Preparing Communities for Potential Spread of COVID-19 include:**
 - Preparing first responders, healthcare providers, and health systems
 - Reinforcing state, territorial, and local public health readiness
 - Supporting communities, businesses, and schools

COMMUNITY BASED INTERVENTIONS (AKA COMMUNITY MITIGATION)

- Americans should be prepared for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in their community. Everyone has a role to play.
- Currently a vaccine is not available for COVID-19. Until a vaccine is developed, community-based interventions, such as school dismissals, event cancellations, social distancing, plans to work remotely can help slow the spread of coronavirus.
- Your local public health department and community partners have been preparing for an event, like COVID-19 and have plans in place. Now is a good time for businesses, community and faith-based organizations, schools, and health-care systems to reexamine their preparedness plans to make sure they are ready.
- Strong community partnerships between local health departments, the health care sector, faith-based organizations, and other community partners are vital for this response, and will be necessary to prepare for and coordinate if an outbreak occurs.
 - Community-based interventions can be grouped in three categories:
 - Personal protective measures (e.g., voluntary home isolation of ill persons, voluntary home quarantine of exposed household members, covering nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing, hand hygiene, using face masks in community settings when ill)
 - Community measures aimed at increasing social distancing (e.g., school dismissals, social distancing in workplaces, postponing or cancelling mass gatherings)
 - Environmental measures (e.g., routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces)
- CDC has recommendations to protect yourself and your community from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses like coronavirus disease 2019.

For more information please visit the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak Page at:
www.cdc.gov/COVID19.