



**IN THE NEWS**  
**LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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Jennifer Rodriguez, M.S. - Public Health Director



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Livingston County Monitoring Coronavirus**

**Mount Morris, NY, January 31, 2020** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus (named “2019-nCoV”). This virus was first seen in China and continues to spread to other areas of the world. The World Health Organization has declared the new coronavirus outbreak a worldwide public health emergency.

Currently there are six confirmed cases in the United States. To date, no one has been diagnosed with this new coronavirus in New York State or Livingston County. Per the CDC, for the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV is considered low.

Since this virus is very new, health experts continue to watch how this virus spreads. It is probably spread from animals to humans and may be spread from person to person. It's not clear yet how easily Novel (New) Coronavirus spreads from person-to-person. It's important to know this in order to better understand the risk associated with this virus.

Common signs of infection include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath and/or breathing difficulties

In more severe cases, this infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), or kidney failure.

The Livingston County Department of Health is working closely with the New York State Department of Health and other health officials to ensure the health and safety of our residents. There are currently no vaccines available to protect against human coronavirus infection. “While the immediate risk of this new virus to the Livingston County residents is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat”, stated Jennifer Rodriguez, Public Health Director.

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

It is important to be aware of the facts and use caution to protect both yourself and your family. If you have recently traveled to China or have been in contact with someone who has recently traveled to China, and are experiencing any symptoms please call your physician right away. For any questions or if you would like further information on coronavirus, please contact the Livingston County Department of Health at 243-7299.

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