



Communication

March 3, 2020

Public Health Notice Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As the public health threat posed by the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) evolves, South Carolina State University is aware of how a possible outbreak in our area might impact our community, and our health professionals are monitoring this situation closely.

In efforts to ease anxiety among members of our university community, most notably, our students, faculty, staff and parents, we are committed to providing you with information about the coronavirus and its possible effects to our campus community and the greater Orangeburg area.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has now confirmed two deaths in the Pacific northwest region of the United States. Cases of the coronavirus have been detected and confirmed in various regions of the U.S., including two new diagnoses in the state of Georgia. To date, according to the CDC, no cases have been identified in South Carolina, however, health officials warn that the disease is highly contagious and expect cases to increase over the coming weeks.

As Spring Break approaches, students will be traveling to different areas/regions/cities where risks of exposure may be increased. With this in mind, the university advises that you follow these recommendations made by the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

Symptoms of the coronavirus include:

- **FEVER**

- **COUGH**
- **SHORTNESS OF BREATH**

Symptoms may appear within **2-14 days after exposure**: If you experience these symptoms, contact the University's Brooks Health Center or a local healthcare professional immediately.

The CDC also recommends the suspension of travel to the following geographic regions where the risk of transmission remains high:

- China
- Iran
- South Korea
- Italy
- Japan
- Hong Kong

Students, faculty and staff members who are traveling to or returning from high risk areas may be subject to quarantine from the SC State University campus pending an assessment by Orangeburg County or South Carolina public health officials before they are allowed to return to campus.

We will keep you informed as other important information becomes available.

For more helpful information about the coronavirus and what you can do to protect yourself visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

For questions concerning local impact, contact Nurse Pinkey Carter at (803) 536-7055 or pcarter@scsu.edu.

What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in China, and limited spread among close contacts has been detected in some countries outside China, including the United States. At this time, however, this virus is NOT currently spreading in communities in the United States. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. Risk of infection is dependent on exposure. Close contacts of people who are infected are at greater risk of exposure, for example health care workers and close contacts of people who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now it seems to be spreading from person to person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some diseases are highly contagious (like measles), while other diseases are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath



What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

How can I help protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

These include

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should seek medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.