

February 3, 2020

Placer County Public Health is working closely with our local, state, and federal public health partners to closely monitor a novel (new) coronavirus outbreak. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which cause respiratory illness in people. Symptoms in an infected person may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

There are currently no cases of novel coronavirus in Placer County and the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus in Placer County is deemed to be low at this time.

There is no immediate threat to the general public in Placer County, and no special precautions are recommended (such as wearing face masks). **People should not be excluded from activities based on their race or country of origin.** Placer County residents, students, workers, and visitors should continue to engage in their regular activities and practice good public health hygiene.

With the goal of slowing the entry of the virus into the United States, on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the federal government implemented a series of restrictions to persons entering the US with a recent history of travel to China. Under these restrictions, all persons entering the U.S. after visiting China will be quarantined and monitored for symptoms for 2 weeks.

Anyone who returned from China prior to February 2<sup>nd</sup> or has been in close contact with an ill individual who traveled from China, and develops a fever and cough or shortness of breath should contact their health care provider. Ill individuals are advised to call ahead to share travel history and symptoms before visiting the clinic or emergency room.

### **Tips to Protect Yourself and Others**

No additional precautions are recommended at this time beyond the steps we normally take to prevent infections, such as:

- Washing hands with liquid soap and water, and rubbing for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing; and
- Staying home if you are sick.

Since flu activity continues to remain high, Placer Public Health also recommends getting a flu shot to protect yourself and others from the flu.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and much remains unknown, but preparing for events such as these is part of the everyday work of public health professionals. One of the most important ways we combat the spread of illness like coronavirus is through education and information from reliable sources. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, and the information contained in this letter may change quickly. Placer County Public Health will provide updated information as it becomes available.