The 2019 novel coronavirus is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

- There are no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in Washoe County.
- Right now, the greatest risk for infection is for people in China or people who have recently traveled to China. Limited person-to-person spread among close contacts has been detected in the United States. At this time, the virus is not spreading in Northern Nevada, or communities in the United States, so the likelihood of someone getting sick with the virus in the United States remains very low. The Health District continues to work with the CDC, state, and local response partners to closely monitor the situation.
- Recently, public health actions include limiting entry into the United States by most travelers who have visited China within the past 14 days. American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families are allowed to return to the United States.
- When travelers are from or are returning from Wuhan, China, they go through an enhanced health screening where authorities check temperatures, symptoms and ask about specific exposures in China. If travelers from Wuhan have concerning symptoms, they will be sent for medical evaluation. If they do not have symptoms, they will be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine near their port of entry.
- For those arriving from other locations in mainland China, they will also receive a health screening when they arrive in the United States. If they have symptoms, they will be sent for a medical evaluation. If they have no symptoms, they will be allowed to travel to their destination and will be assessed for their risk and then asked to self-monitored with periodic check-ins at the discretion of the local or state health authority for 14 days.
- There are no restrictions on travel in the United States. It is always recommended that people who are ill avoid travel to keep from potentially exposing others to disease.
- Northern Nevada remains at a low risk for transmission of the 2019 novel Coronavirus. People who have not traveled to an area where the virus is circulating and who have not had close contact with a patient who has tested positive for the virus are at low risk for infection.
- Because the virus is not spreading throughout the United States right now, the best way the public can protect themselves is to practice healthy habits and take steps that will protect themselves from being exposed to the spread of respiratory viruses in general.
The Washoe County Health District encourages the public to follow CDC recommendations to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses such as the flu:
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Recently the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) declared the 2019 Novel Coronavirus to be a public health emergency. The declaration by the WHO serves to assist the international agency in its efforts to mobilize the resources it needs for the global response, including being able to support lower- and middle-income countries by helping them strengthen their disease surveillance and prepare for possible cases.

The declaration by HHS gives state, tribal and local health departments more flexibility to use personnel that may be funded through federal programs to assist in outbreak response activities.

These declarations do not change the assessment of our local situation or the current recommendations for the public.

Additional information and updates are available on the Health District website at www.washoecounty.us/health