TOWN OF BEDFORD

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Coronavirus COVID-19 Information

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has provided the following information that we would like to share about the Novel Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, first identified in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. As new information becomes available we will place this information on the Town of Bedford website: https://www.bedfordma.gov/bedford-board-of-health

At this time, Massachusetts has one confirmed case of COVID-19 and the risk to our residents remains low. At the same time, the **risk for the influenza** virus **is very high.**

The vast majority of reported cases of COVID-19 have been in China. Confirmed cases of this respiratory virus are also being reported in a growing number of countries, including the United States. Some person-to-person spread of this virus outside China has been detected but, again, the risk to Massachusetts residents remains low at this time.

As of February 3, 2020, travelers from mainland China are arriving into the U.S. at 11 airports (not including Logan airport in Boston) and are being screened upon entry. Travelers who are ill or who have traveled in the high-risk area of Hubei Province are being quarantined at the point of entry. Travelers from other parts of China without symptoms are being told to stay at home for 14 days from day of arrival.

We know that outbreaks of new virus infections are always of public health concern. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), other federal agencies, local boards of health, and our clinical partners to share the most up to date information available.

It is important to note that Massachusetts residents are still much more likely to become sick with a cold or the flu than to be exposed to COVID-19. Many of the precautions that help prevent colds and the flu can help protect against other respiratory viruses.

The precautions to help prevent colds and the flu can help protect against COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands)

- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick

Continue regular cleaning and disinfection.

- Clean hard surfaces (desks, tables, countertops, sinks). Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (door handles, faucets, railings) and bathrooms. Use alcohol wipes to clean keyboards.

- You may want to use a disinfectant to clean all high touch surfaces.

- Clean the surface first to remove all organic matter. Thorough cleaning with soap and water will remove most microorganisms.

For more information

- DPH has created a website updated constantly with the latest guidance, including printable fact sheets in multiple languages. Visit: www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.

- CDC website at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.