



Town of Hopkinton

Health Department

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2020

Dear Residents of Hopkinton:

The Health Department would like to formally address the community's concern about the risk of novel Coronavirus in the Town of Hopkinton. We acknowledge that outbreaks of new virus infections among people are always of public health concern and are working to make sure you are updated with information as it is released from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Even with the identification of a Coronavirus case in Boston, the CDC and MDPH consider the transmission risk of 2019-nCoV in Hopkinton to be low at this time.

Current research indicates that the novel Coronavirus is spread by droplets produced when an infected individual sneezes or coughs. Risk of transmission of this virus is directly related to contact with an individual currently infected. Flights from China are no longer permitted to land at Logan International Airport. As of 5:00 p.m. on 2/2/2020, under newly imposed Federal restrictions, passengers that have visited the Hubei province will be screened for contact with sick individuals and then quarantined for 14 days at a designated military installation. Information about this new Federal restriction is

rapidly changing and will be updated on the MDPH web-site dedicated to this event and provided below. Infected individuals are not permitted to circulate amongst the general public.

The Hopkinton Health Department is in daily contact with the MDPH and updated with evolving information concerning 2019-nCoV by the CDC. Any diagnosis and/or suspicion of a communicable disease is immediately shared amongst the attending physician, the Hopkinton Health Department and the MDPH. The Department is pushing this information and updates to the physicians and physician practices in Hopkinton. At this time, there are no confirmed cases or persons under investigation for 2019-nCoV in Hopkinton.

There are preventative measures you can implement to protect yourself and your family. As with any outbreak of respiratory illness, frequent hand washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is your first line of defense. Avoid touching your face or eyes and cover your mouth or nose when coughing or sneezing.

The Hopkinton Health Department is committed to keep the community informed and to reduce risk for exposure to any communicable disease. The Health Department is available to answer any questions or concerns and can be reached at (508) 497-9725.

MDPH Coronavirus Web-site:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>