



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Oxiris Barbot, MD  
Commissioner

January 2020

Dear Families:

Recently, a novel (new) coronavirus was detected in thousands of people worldwide, primarily in China. A "novel coronavirus" is a strain that has not been previously found in humans. This novel coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and shortness of breath.

There are currently zero diagnoses in New York City, and the risk to New Yorkers is low. The City is monitoring the outbreak closely and working with our partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Right now, everyone should go about their daily lives, but practice the same precautions you do during cold and flu season: Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when sneezing or coughing, wash your hands with soap and water often, and stay home if you are feeling sick.

If you were recently in Wuhan, China and have a fever and either cough or shortness of breath, call your health care provider.

At this time there is no need to cancel field trips.

To learn more, visit the Health Department's website at [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search: coronavirus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetre C. Daskalakis".

Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD, MPH  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Disease Control  
New York City Department of  
Health and Mental Hygiene

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Platt".

Roger Platt, MD  
Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Family and Child Health  
New York City Department of  
Health and Mental Hygiene