



# TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

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*"Promoting Health & Preventing Disease Since 1967"*

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February 6, 2020

To: School Superintendents, Chief Elected Officials

**RE: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan, China**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to closely monitor an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first detected Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. China has reported tens of thousands of infections with 2019-nCoV. Infections are being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the [United States](#). Most of these are associated with travel from Wuhan. Some person to person spread has been detected outside of China. The US has confirmed 12 cases in six states (AZ, CA, IL, MA, WA, WI).

TAHD and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) are closely monitoring the situation. Currently, Connecticut does not have any confirmed cases, however **Influenza activity is geographically widespread in CT**. The CDC recommends the following everyday actions to prevent spread of respiratory diseases.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Certain groups of people may have an increased risk of infection (e.g. healthcare workers caring for 2019-nCoV patients or close contacts of 2019n-CoV patients). **For the general American public, the risk is believed to be low at this time.**

Up to date information may be found at the following websites:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

DPH: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

This next link is to a one-page fact sheet on what is currently known about the virus. This information is subject to change as additional information is learned. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Respectfully,

Robert Rubbo; MPH, R.S.  
Director of Health

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**Borough of Bantam, Bethlehem, Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, Harwinton, Kent, Borough of Litchfield, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, Norfolk, North Canaan, Plymouth, Salisbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Watertown, Winsted**

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