

# District Health Department #4

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

DHD4 is closely monitoring information regarding the Coronavirus and sharing it appropriately with medical providers, community partners and the general public as it becomes available. As the situation continues to evolve, DHD4 participates in weekly conference calls with state partners.

Coronavirus infection is likely to be very much like the flu. Both are essentially respiratory infections. They enter the body through being breathed in through the nose or mouth or other mucus membranes such as the eyes, nose or mouth. They can cause symptoms as mild as the cold, or a flu-like combination of fever, aches, fatigue, or serious complications such as pneumonia or sepsis. Neither flu viruses or coronaviruses can be killed by ordinary antibiotics, and even antiviral drugs were not very effective against SARS or MERS. Coronaviruses are not usually as easily transmitted as influenza, but the communicability of the virus is not well known yet.

The Detroit Metropolitan Airport is one of 11 U.S. airports that will have enhanced security in the wake of the spreading coronavirus, the Department of Homeland Security announced. That means people flying in from China can be rerouted to DTW for screenings. Depending on the outcome of the screenings, passengers will either be placed in quarantine, allowed to isolate at home, or no restrictions.

Precautions that can help us avoid the spread are the same as those to avoid flu and are good habits generally. They include:

- Frequent handwashing, for 20 seconds with soap.
- Cough hygiene – into a tissue when possible (throw it away immediately) or into your arm if necessary.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with those who are ill.
- Stay home from work or school when ill.

In addition, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has the following recommendations:

- If you traveled to China in the last 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should:

**Cheboygan County**  
Doris E. Reid Center  
825 S. Huron St., Suite 1  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
(231) 627-8850  
Fax (231) 627-9466

**Montmorency County**  
P.O Box 183  
12519 State St.  
Atlanta, MI 49709  
(989) 785-4428  
Fax (989)785-2217

**Presque Isle County**  
106 E. Huron St.  
Suite A  
Rogers City, MI 49779  
(989) 734-4723  
Fax (989) 734-3866

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Not travel while sick.

It is natural and reasonable to be concerned about this new infection that is receiving such worldwide attention but putting this into historical context may be reassuring. The SARS outbreak that originated in China in 2003 caused only 8 confirmed cases and no deaths in the United States. And the MERS outbreak from Saudi Arabia in 2012 resulted in 2 U.S. cases and no deaths. At this point, based on what we currently know, the risk is low for most US citizens who are not travelling to China to contract the virus.

For more information about the coronavirus, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>  
[www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus)

For more information or to schedule an appointment for a Flu shot call 989-356-4507 or 1-800-221-0297

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