COVID-19
(Novel Coronavirus 2019)

Overview
- The CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China that first emerged in December 2019.
- The outbreak first started in Wuhan, China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations including the United States.
- Limited person-to-person spread is occurring however; it is unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.
- As this is a new virus, there is still much to be learned about how it spreads, the severity of associated illness, and other features of the virus.

Main Messages
- While the CDC considers this to be a serious public health concern, based on current information, the immediate health risk from the 2019-nCoV (COVID-19) to the general public in the U.S. is considered low at this time.
- As surveillance continues, it is expected that more cases will be identified.
- NJDOH is monitoring the situation closely and is proactively preparing guidance documents for public health and health care professionals to be able to effectively respond to any cases that may be identified in the state.

What is Being Done
- The CDC is closely working with the World Health Organization to monitor this situation.
- Entrance screening has been implemented at eleven US airports to identify passengers from China who may be ill.
- NJ Department of Health is working with state and federal partner agencies to establish contacts should ill travelers be identified; is creating guidance documents for investigating and managing suspect cases and their contacts; and is evaluating and modifying current respiratory surveillance to assist in the detection of suspect cases.

Public health recommendations for the public/impacted group
- Follow good respiratory hygiene recommendations.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid sick people.
- Review and follow CDC travel advisories when planning travel. If you become ill after returning home to the United States, call your healthcare provider before going to a doctor's office or emergency department of a hospital. They may want to place a mask on you before you enter the building to protect other people.