**For Immediate Release**

**Submitted by**: Darke County General Health District

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 **The Wuhan Coronavirus, What Is It?**

A new coronavirus is causing an outbreak of pneumonia-like illness in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This outbreak began in early December 2019 and continues to grow. We expect more cases to be confirmed in China and other countries. Signs and symptoms of this illness include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Initially some patients were linked to the Wuhan South China Seafood City Market. However, since closing the market on January 1, 2020, more cases have been identified suggesting that some person-to-person spread is occurring. It is unknown how easily this virus is spreading between people.

Here are the key points you should know:

* There is an ongoing [outbreak of pneumonia-like illness, first identified in Wuhan, China](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html), caused by a new coronavirus.
* Person-to-person spread is occurring. It is unknown how easily the virus spreads between people.
* Early information suggests that older adults and people with underlying health conditions may be at increased risk for severe disease from this virus.
* Travelers to Wuhan, [China](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/china), should avoid contact with sick people, animals (alive or dead), and animal markets.
* Travelers from Wuhan to the United States, and other countries, may be asked questions about their health and travel history upon arrival.

In response to this outbreak, Chinese officials have started checking for symptoms of this illness before travelers leave the city of Wuhan. Several other countries and territories in the region are reported to have also started health screening of travelers arriving from Wuhan.

On arrival to the United States, travelers from Wuhan may undergo health screening, including having their temperature taken and filling out a symptom questionnaire. Travelers with signs and symptoms of illness (fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) will have an additional health assessment.

**What can you do in Darke county?**

To reduce risk of infection:

• wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

• avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

• avoid close contact with people who are sick

At this point, the Wuhan coronavirus poses very little threat to those in Darke county. There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against human coronavirus infection. However, it’s still a good idea to get vaccinated and lower your risk against other preventable diseases, such as the flu.

Flu shots are available at the Darke County General Health District Monday through Friday from 8am until 4pm. There is no appointment needed for flu shots. If you have any questions, please call 937-548-4196.

For more information about the current outbreak in China, visit:

 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

• For more information about Coronaviruses: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

• For travel health information: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/pneumonia-china>