



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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As news regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak continues to evolve, we have been working closely with our Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to monitor COVID-19 conditions and make decisions that help to keep Chester County healthy.

In addition, we are working with the Health Department to **determine the best steps regarding the health of you all as first responders and stakeholders.**

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person, just like the flu or a cold, through the air by coughing or sneezing; through close personal contact, like touching or shaking hands; by touching an object or surface with the viruses on it; and occasionally, through fecal contamination. There are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Chester County or Pennsylvania.

We are reviewing our emergency preparedness plans in the event of a more widespread outbreak that requires additional action. We have worked and will continue to work with the Health Department to implement plans and protocols quickly.

You should be telling your people to perform additional cleaning of work areas and touch surfaces like door handles.

You should advise your people to follow the same practices that help prevent the spread of the flu and other illnesses:

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners that are at least 60-95% alcohol are also effective.
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes.** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or cough/sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.
- **Workspace prevention.** Use disinfectant wipes for work surfaces, including telephones, keyboards, desktops, desk drawer handles, and doorknobs.
- **Do not attend work if you are sick.** Remain home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine like ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

Our priority is your health and well-being. We will remain vigilant regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation and will notify you of any additional changes to our recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19, should it become necessary.

Please check the Health Department's current website information about COVID-19 in Chester County at <https://www.chesco.org/4376/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>. For more information about COVID-19, visit [CDC: Coronavirus Prevention & Treatment](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/).

The Mission of the Department of Emergency Services is to promote and assist in providing safety and security to Chester County citizens so they can work, live, and grow in a healthy and safe community.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) consider the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to be a very serious public health threat. The CDC is taking proactive preparedness steps and issued interim guidance for healthcare providers on infection control and prevention for COVID-19.

As fire, police, and EMS agencies consider how to best prepare for and respond to occurrences of the COVID-19, all agency administrators are encouraged to review the following materials.

[Interim Guidance for EMS Agencies and 911 Public Safety Answering Points](#) (CDC)

[Guide to Selecting, Donning, and Doffing PPE for Coronavirus](#) (NETEC)

[2019-nCoV Situation Overview](#) (CDC)

[Interim Guidance for Healthcare Providers](#) (CDC)

[Preparedness Checklist for 2019-nCoV](#) (CDC)

[Infection Control for Suspected 2019-nCoV Patients](#) (WHO)

[Frequently Asked Questions: 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (CDC)

[Live Map of 2019-nCoV Cases](#) (CDC and Johns Hopkins University)

The Department of Homeland Security National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) develops a daily monitoring list that contains brief summaries of acute biological events that impact human, animal, plant, and environmental health and may be of concern or interest to NBIC partners, including novel coronavirus, Ebola, etc. Please email CWMD.NBIC@hq.dhs.gov if you are interested in being added to their daily email distribution.



CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BE INFORMED

LEARN THE FACTS, SHARE THE FACTS, STOP THE FEAR

WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person just like the flu or a cold:

- Through the air by coughing or sneezing
- Close personal contact, like touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the viruses on it
- Occasionally, through fecal contamination

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CHESTER COUNTY

Currently, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. While there is a low immediate health risk for the residents of Chester County, the Chester County Health Department is actively engaged in response and preparedness efforts by:

- Monitoring the coronavirus outbreak by working with federal and state partners, including the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Conducting disease surveillance and investigating any suspected cases of coronavirus
- Communicating with healthcare providers about updated treatment and testing information and guidance as it becomes available from the CDC
- Developing and sharing appropriate and timely communications with community partners
- Ensuring release of accurate and culturally-competent public information
- Posting trustworthy information on Health Department social media channels

TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you or your family has travel plans in place, you can stay up to date with current travel guidance from the CDC at:

<http://bit.ly/TravelCOVID-19>

VIRUSES DON'T DISCRIMINATE AND NEITHER SHOULD WE

Misinformation causes fear and anxiety. Sometimes this fear can result in stigma towards populations that people associate with a disease. Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger towards ordinary people instead of the disease itself. You can help reduce stigma if you:

- Rely on and share trusted sources of information
- Speak up if you hear, see, or read misinformation
- Show support for impacted individuals and communities

For more information on stigma, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/StigmaCOVID-19>

STAY INFORMED CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

[Chesco.org/Health](https://www.chesco.org/Health)



[@ChescoHealth](https://twitter.com/ChescoHealth)



[@ChesterCountyHealthDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterCountyHealthDepartment)

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

PADOH:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Personal Preparedness: www.ready.gov/pandemic

CDC's Frequently Asked Questions:

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



CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BE PREPARED

LEARN THE FACTS, SHARE THE FACTS, STOP THE FEAR

PREVENTION TIPS



Clean hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer (60-95% ethyl alcohol if soap & water are unavailable)



Cover nose and mouth when coughing & sneezing with a tissue or flexed elbow



Avoid touching your face, eyes, and nose



Clean surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, doorknobs, cell phones and other frequently touched areas. Most household cleansers, such as bleach wipes or alcohol, will kill the virus



Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms



Stay home and consult a healthcare provider if you are sick

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

You can prepare for public health emergencies, like COVID-19, by having some basic personal preparedness items in your home. Imagine you were going on a 3-day camping trip and think about what your family would need. Consider gathering items such as:

- Water and non-perishable food (including items for pets)
- Prescription and over-the counter medications
- Personal care items

STAY INFORMED

CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19 **BE PREPARED**

Chesco.org/Health



[@ChescoHealth](https://twitter.com/ChescoHealth)



[@ChesterCountyHealthDepartment](https://ChesterCountyHealthDepartment)

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

PADOH:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Personal Preparedness: www.ready.gov/pandemic

CDC's Frequently Asked Questions:

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

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

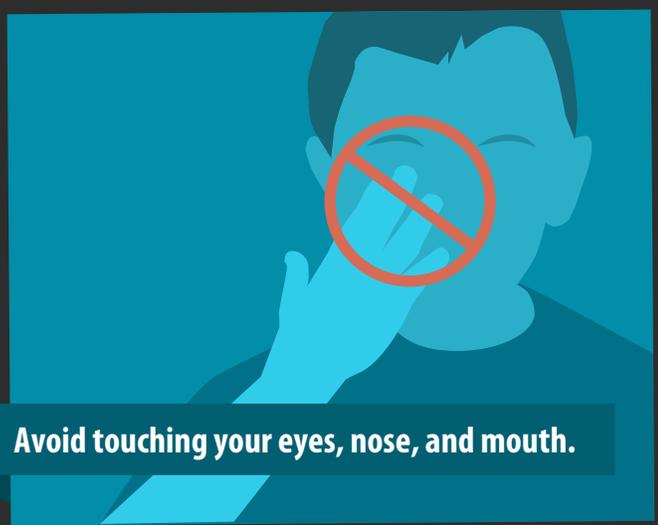
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19



Hands that look clean can still have icky germs!



WASH YOUR HANDS!



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention