

January 27, 2020

Dear Members of the UNH Community,

We are writing to share information with the university community about the emerging outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by [a new viral strain of coronavirus](#), first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province of China. An increasing number of cases have been diagnosed in countries outside of China, including at least five cases within the United States. Although we have reports that two individuals are being monitored for symptoms in New Hampshire, **we are not aware of any confirmed cases in the New England region or on our campuses.**

This is a rapidly changing situation and university officials including our medical staff and emergency management professionals are in constant contact with state and federal authorities for the latest information.

Health & Wellness is prepared to address clinical concerns and is closely monitoring the health of our student, faculty and staff community. Health & Wellness as well as UNH emergency management personnel are fully aware and informed regarding the current coronavirus infection and its international health effects, and are following all medical and public health guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the NH Department of Health and Human Services (NHHHS), and other appropriate agencies.

Reported symptoms of illness have included primarily fever, cough and difficulty breathing. To reduce the risk of spreading virus infection, the CDC recommends taking precautionary measures similar to those for flu prevention. These include: frequent handwashing with soap and water, avoiding sick people, staying home if you are sick, covering your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.

While the flu shot cannot protect the coronavirus, we recommend all members of the UNH community be vaccinated for influenza if they have not already. Flu shots are available at Health & Wellness.

Those planning a trip to China should keep an eye on the news and be aware of any travel restrictions. Currently, the CDC has raised the health-related travel warning to 3, recommending that travelers avoid nonessential travel to China. Beth Kilinc, senior coordinator for risk management & partnerships in the UNH Global Education Center, is a good resource for UNH community members traveling to China. She can be reached at 603-862-0128. Anyone who has recently returned from a trip to China and is feeling sick should contact Health & Wellness and/or call their health care provider.

Additional information about coronavirus, including signs and symptoms, transmission and risk of exposure, and what to do if you are exhibiting symptoms, is available on the UNH [Health & Wellness website](#).

Sincerely,

Peter Degnan, MD

Medical Director, UNH Health & Wellness

Paul Dean

Chief of Police/Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Risk Management