



## **St. Lawrence County Public Health Department**

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### **Press Release**

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#### **The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department Educates Public on 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

**Canton, NY**— While there have been some cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus reported in the U.S., no confirmed cases have been detected in St. Lawrence County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says the risk of it spreading throughout the U.S. is low.

Not a whole lot is known about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus at this time, but the CDC is closely monitoring this respiratory illness that was initially identified in Wuhan, China. St. Lawrence County Public Health Department routinely performs communicable disease surveillance and they are collaborating with the New York State Department of Health.

“We are still learning about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus as it is a rapidly evolving situation” said Dana McGuire, St. Lawrence County Public Health Director. “We are working closely with the New York State Department of Health and we will provide updated information as it becomes available.”

The symptoms of 2019 Novel Coronavirus can mimic the flu and the common cold which are highly active at this time. The CDC has provided a factsheet for reference. You can find it at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>.

The risk of contracting the virus is dependent on exposure, and is believed to be low for the general American public at this time. However, everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat by taking the following preventive actions:

- Wash hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds — or sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with tissues then dispose of tissue in trash, then wash hands.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
- It’s currently flu season. It’s not too late to get vaccinated!

The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department is working closely with all of our partners on the most current, up-to-date guidance available. If you have any questions or concerns, you should contact your healthcare provider, especially if you have recently traveled to China. You may also contact the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department with additional questions or concerns at 315-386-2325.

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