



RISK ALERT

CORONAVIRUS

January 23, 2020

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is monitoring the progress of this new virus and taking active measures to detect and contain any cases arriving in the United States from the Wuhan, China area. Screening has been established at seven U.S. airports including Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles and others on the west coast. They have also developed a test that can diagnose the virus very quickly. Although one case has been reported in Washington State, it was self-reported by a traveler who had been in Wuhan even before screening was initiated. The CDC calls the virus a "low risk" at this time (January 21, 2020 press briefing). The CDC has also activated its Emergency Operations Center and placed state infectious disease agencies on alert.

The World Health Organization reports 509 cases as of noon Eastern Time on January 22, 2020, with 17 known fatalities. The Chinese government is implementing a total quarantine of Wuhan effective Thursday, January 23, 2020. Wuhan is a city of 11,000,000 people.

WebMD describes the symptoms as similar to a common cold. As the disease spreads districts should stay informed and pay attention to recommendations from the CDC, local health departments and your doctors. Observe standard infection control protocols and common sense.

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