Chatham Health District is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (named COVID-19) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which is spreading globally. Chatham Health District will be participating in weekly Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conference calls on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as well as weekly conference calls with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) on Wednesdays. Here is a brief synopsis of the current situation:

**Currently there are NO people under investigation (PUI) within the Chatham Health District towns and No confirmed COVID-19 cases in Connecticut.**

- Globally there are 82,294 confirmed cases, and 2,804 deaths, most of which are from China.
- COVID-19 is confirmed in 37 countries.
- Among US residents, there have been a total of 60 confirmed cases, most related to the Diamond Princess cruise ship.
- **One confirmed case in California with no known travel history or exposure to another patient with COVID-19 may be the first evidence of community transmission in the United States.**
- Decision to test a person is made by a physician, in consultation with CT DPH and CDC.
- The number of people coming from Wuhan is declining due to travel restrictions.
- Travelers are required to be monitored for up to 14 days after leaving China.
- Consensus is that the incubation period is 2-14 days.

There is currently no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment to prevent COVID-19 infection. People infected with COVID-19 will receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. Everyday preventative actions will help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC is now expecting there to be community-based transmission of COVID-19 in the United States. Businesses, schools, municipal government offices, and others should expect significant disruptions, and begin preparing.

**See below for guidance for specific groups.**


Guidance for pregnant women and children can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/pregnant-women.html

Guidance for healthcare professionals can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html