# 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) For Businesses

## What is the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

- A new coronavirus that causes respiratory illness in people. It was first identified in Wuhan, China.
- Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illness in people ranging from the common cold to more serious illness.
- We continue to learn about this coronavirus and its characteristics as the outbreak continues.

#### How is 2019-nCoV spread?

• 2019-nCoV virus is thought to be spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person sneezes or coughs.

### What are the symptoms of this disease?

Symptoms that are currently being seen with the 2019-nCoV include:

- Fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- If you are not having symptoms, at this time it is thought that you are not at risk of being infected with novel coronavirus.

#### How is the spread of 2019-nCoV prevented?

- There are everyday actions to take to help prevent spread of illnesses:
  - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used if soap and water are not available.
  - Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home when feeling sick.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## What is the risk of transmission within a public gathering?

• Right now, this virus has not been found to be spreading in the United States. The risk to the general public is low at this time.

### How will 2019-nCoV affect my business?

• Currently, there are no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in the District. Therefore businesses do not need to take any additional precautions.

### For more information regarding 2019-nCoV, please visit DC Health's website:

https://dchealth.dc.gov/coronavirus

#### Published: February 3, 2020







