



*Serving Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet & Otsego Counties*

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### **Health Department Closely Monitoring Novel Coronavirus**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is closely monitoring information regarding the Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) and will share information with medical providers, community partners, and the public as it becomes available.

Health Department officials are working with community partners to ensure that we are prepared should a local threat arise, however at this time the risk for Coronavirus is relatively low due to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) travel restrictions, including funneling travelers from China to 12 airports for screening, potential quarantine and/or subsequent monitoring. Symptoms of the Coronavirus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath and appear 2-14 days after exposure.

According to Medical Director, Dr. Joshua Meyerson, "at this time the risk regionally is low, but we are closely monitoring the situation as it evolves. We are prepared to assist individuals in our area who may have had recent travel in China as well as provide guidance to our area physicians on appropriate testing should the need arise."

Taking steps to prevent the flu and respiratory viruses is important, especially with the widespread nature of the flu virus in our area. Everyday preventative actions from the CDC include:

- Getting your flu shot (it's not too late).
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs. 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 rub with at least 60% alcohol.

For additional information about the Novel Coronavirus, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) or [Michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus).

*The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit [nwhealth.org](http://nwhealth.org).*

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