



NEWS RELEASE

City Monitoring and Preparing for COVID-19

FREDERICK, MD – March 4, 2020:

The City of Frederick is closely monitoring the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Current information suggests that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, and more cases might be identified in the United States, including in our region. The City's goal is to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in Frederick by minimizing transmission, sharing guidance to prepare our community to respond, and ensuring our departments and operations have a strong continuity of operations plan in place. To date, there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Maryland or Frederick County.

The City of Frederick is working closely with the Frederick County Health Department and following the guidance provided by the CDC and Maryland Department of Health. According to the Frederick County Health Department, the immediate health risk to the general public from the virus causing COVID-19 **remains low** in Frederick. However, there are steps individuals and organizations in our community can take to help minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread:

- Practice everyday preventive actions such as performing frequent hand hygiene, washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (especially when hands are visibly soiled) or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%–95% alcohol; covering your cough and sneeze; avoiding ill people, and staying home when sick (except to seek medical care). These simple actions can prevent the spread of many illnesses, including COVID-19.
- Healthcare providers should continue to ask patients with fever and respiratory symptoms about their travel history. Refer to [CDC's Guidance for Healthcare Professionals](#) for more information on screening and evaluating Persons Under Investigation.
- Businesses and employers should actively encourage all employees to stay home when sick, perform hand hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes. Businesses should review their emergency operations plan, including identification of essential business functions, teleworking and flexible sick leave policies.
- Community- and faith-based organizations should review existing emergency operations plans, including strategies for social distancing and modifying large gatherings such as concerts and festivals. See the CDC's [Interim Guidance: Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for COVID-19](#).
- Help reduce the spread of rumors. Let people know that viruses cannot target people from specific populations, ethnicities, or racial backgrounds. Fight stigma and fear by supporting people who may be coming back to school or work after

traveling internationally or completing a quarantine or isolation period for COVID-19. Travelers returning from any country with a [Travel Alert Level 3](#) should stay home and monitor their health for up to 14 days. Please follow instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow the spread of this virus. Travelers returning from any country with a [Travel Alert Level 2](#) are also encouraged to monitor their health but do not need to limit their movement or activity.

The City of Frederick will continue to work with local public health partners and is mobilizing its Emergency Management Team and Action Plan. All updates from the City will be shared on the City's website and social media channels.

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