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2019 Novel Coronavirus travel update

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department continues to diligently follow the rapidly evolving 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak. There have been 12 cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in the United States, but no confirmed cases in Michigan to date. There have been over 40,000 cases and over 900 deaths reported internationally. Nearly all cases are in China, and 75% of all the cases are in the Hubei province of China. Around 450 cases have occurred in 24 other countries. There has been one outbreak on a cruise ship near Japan, but no other cruises have had confirmed cases.

On January 31, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) instated restrictions for all passenger flights to the United States carrying individuals who recently traveled from the People’s Republic of China. Any U.S. citizen who has been to China in the last two weeks will be diverted to one of 11 airports, including Detroit Metropolitan Airport, to be checked and potentially quarantined for an additional 14 days. U.S. citizens who have been in Hubei province within 14 days of their return will be subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine to ensure they are provided proper medical care and health screening. U.S. citizens who have been in other areas of mainland China within 14 days of their return will undergo health screening and up to 14 days of self-quarantine with health monitoring done by their local health department. Generally, foreign nationals (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents and flight crew) who have traveled in China within 14 days of their arrival, will be denied entry into the United States.

Spring break and travel will be here soon. At this time, general travel to and from areas other than China is not considered a risk for exposure to 2019-nCoV. There may be other health considerations, depending on the destination, such as typhoid, hepatitis, measles, or mosquito-borne diseases. Vaccines or medication may be recommended and are available to help prevent illness while you travel. Information based on your destination, as well as travel health notices can be found at www.cdc.gov/travel. If you are in need of a vaccination prior to travel, you may contact the Mid-Michigan District Health Department at 989-224-2195 in Clinton County, 989-875-3681 in Gratiot County, or 989-831-5237 in Montcalm County.