



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF GILMANTON

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Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. *Closed Tuesdays*

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE (COVID 19)

February 27 2020

In an effort to keep our citizens informed we wanted to pass on some information and updates concerning the current Coronavirus threat. Our office is in daily contact with the NHDHHS and receiving daily updates regarding the status of the Coronavirus Disease. We will continue to share pertinent updates on our town wide web page to keep you informed. Currently there are no known cases identified in NH. Our best defense is a proactive approach and practicing habits that will prevent the spread of this disease.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is the new name for the illness caused by the newly identified severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2, formerly called 2019 novel coronavirus [2019-nCoV]). There are currently more than 80,000 cases of COVID-19 from more than 35 different countries, including several countries outside of mainland China that have more sustained or widespread community transmission, including South Korea, Japan, Italy, and Iran. There has not been sustained community transmission identified in the U.S. and currently there are 14 confirmed travel-associated COVID-19 cases in the U.S. in the states of California, Illinois, Arizona, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington State, and Wisconsin. There are an additional 45 individuals confirmed with COVID-19 who were repatriated to the U.S. from Hubei Province China or from the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There are no current cases of COVID-19 identified in New Hampshire.

Given the global expansion of the outbreak and identified community transmission in countries outside of China, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is promoting mitigation strategies for controlling spread and decreasing impact if/when the novel coronavirus is identified to cause more sustained community transmission in the U.S. NH DPHS is monitoring for potential cases and taking precautions to limit the impact if the virus is found in NH. We continue to engage partners to plan for the potential need to implement community mitigation and medical surge measures. We recommend that healthcare providers continue to reinforce everyday strategies that are important for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other common respiratory viruses, including the following:

- Stay home and avoid public places when sick (i.e. social distancing)
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing
- Wash hands frequently
- Avoid being within 6 feet (close contact) of a person who is sick
- Avoid sharing drinks, smoking/vaping devices, or other utensils or objects that may transmit saliva
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces