



# Township of Branchburg

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**OFFICE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**February 28, 2020**

### **Branchburg Health Department Information to Residents**

There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers this to be a serious public health concern, based on current information, the immediate health risk from the COVID-19 to the general American public is considered low at this time.

The Branchburg Health Department is working with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to monitor the situation closely and proactively respond to any cases that may be identified in the state. The Branchburg Health Department has been working with NJDOH to establish contacts should ill travelers be identified; and sharing guidance documents for investigating and managing suspect cases and their contacts.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

There is a NJDOH Novel Coronavirus Call Center that is open and is taking calls from the general public only. It is open 24/7 and can accommodate callers in multiple languages. They can be reached at 1-800-222-1222.

#### **For more information on COVID-19:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>