



HEALTH ADVISORY: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) February 28, 2020

Summary: Amarillo Public Health continues to monitor an outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) that originated in Wuhan City, China in December of 2019. To date, there are no confirmed cases in Potter or Randall Counties. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Amarillo Public Health are watching the situation closely. Updates in the form of Health Alerts will be sent out every Thursday to provide updated information on the situation.

The CDC continues to stress that the most effective way to prevent the spread of any disease is through proper hygiene. The CDC has established the following steps for improved public hygiene:

- Wash your hands with soap and water on a regular basis.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of the tissue in the trash.
- Follow recommendations from the CDC for using a facemask.

Below are links to additional information provided by the DSHS and CDC.

- Health care professionals: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/#healthprof>
- EMS Systems: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/#ems>
- Community and school information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preparing-individuals-communities.html>

Obtaining a thorough travel history is critical for patients showing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath). If patients have traveled to countries with sustained community transmission or had close contact with someone with COVID-19, please contact Amarillo Public Health for further evaluation. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Questions or requests for additional information can be directed to Mark Price (806-378-6336) after hours emergencies (806-680-8980).