January 31, 2020

San Francisco Department of Public Health Statement on Novel Coronavirus

With today’s announcement of a confirmed novel coronavirus case in a Santa Clara County resident, California now has three confirmed cases of the new illness (one each in Los Angeles and Orange counties). The risk to the public remains low.

San Francisco has zero cases of novel coronavirus at this time. If a case is confirmed in San Francisco, the Department of Public Health will announce it, in cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health.

The SF Department of Public Health is working closely with the CDC and the California Department of Public Health, monitoring the outbreak and preparing a response that protects the public.

Our focus is on prevention. The best way that members of the public can protect themselves from getting sick is through frequent hand washing. Also, coughing or sneezing into your sleeve, and staying home if you’re sick are important ways to prevent the spread of illness. We recommend getting a flu vaccine to help prevent illness and symptoms similar to the novel coronavirus. Masks are not recommended as a way to prevent novel coronavirus, which is not circulating in San Francisco at this time.

The World Health Organization has declared novel coronavirus a global health emergency, and the U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services has declared a public health emergency in the United States. It is a rapidly developing situation. Please get evolving information from the CDC.

Learn more: Fact Sheets in English, Chinese, Filipino and Spanish.