



## Updates on Monitoring Returning Travelers for 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Delaware DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay, MD, MS

With the rapidly evolving nature of the spread of the coronavirus infection worldwide, DPH wants to ensure providers and staff are up to date with the most current information and testing criteria. We ask that you continue to visit our website at <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph> and [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) for the most recent information. Also, if you are not currently signed up to receive DPH Health Alerts (HANs), you may register at <https://healthalertde.org>.

### CDC Criteria for Testing for Coronavirus as of 1.31.2020:

Patients under investigation must meet one of the following categories. At this time, CDC remains the only testing facility for Delaware and will not test if the patient does not meet one of the below definitions.

- 1) Fever AND lower respiratory symptoms + Travel to Wuhan City/Hubei Province, China within 14 days of onset
- 2) Fever AND lower respiratory symptoms requiring hospitalization + Travel to anywhere in mainland China within 14 days of onset
- 3) Fever OR lower respiratory symptoms + close contact with a laboratory-confirmed case within 14 days of onset

### DPH Monitoring of Returning Travelers from China:

The CDC issued [guidelines for the risk assessment and monitoring of returning travelers from China](#). **These guidelines are effective as of Feb. 3, 2020 and do not retroactively apply to individuals who were in China in the prior 14 days.**

- **As of Feb. 3, 2020**, all persons returning from Hubei Province in China, as well as symptomatic persons returning from mainland China, will be quarantined as per federal orders at their point of entry, no local monitoring needed.
- All asymptomatic travelers from mainland China will be monitored by DPH for 14 days after last exposure (flight out date) by DPH for their symptoms with an initial assessment and daily phone calls.
  - DPH is recommending exclusion from work/school for these asymptomatic returning from mainland China for 14 days after last exposure.
  - Individuals are being asked to remain at home during this period while self-monitoring for symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath):
    - Fever—take temperature twice a day.
  - Other early symptoms to watch for are chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and runny nose.



- If the patient develops fever or any of these symptoms, they are to call DPH right away, or if an emergency, 9-1-1 and provide information about symptoms and recent travel to dispatch. If a patient calls their primary care provider instead, the provider should call DPH at **1-888-295-5156**.
- Health care providers or businesses who have staff with recent travel, or colleges/universities who have students with recent travel may be asked to assist DPH and monitor their own staff/students during this time after DPH conducts an initial assessment and report results to **DPH daily at 1-888-295-5156**. Call the same number if you have questions.
- Individuals returning from travel to China **prior to Feb. 3, 2020**: Self-monitoring for symptoms for 14 days after date they landed is recommended. No restrictions while asymptomatic, if symptoms develop, the patient should isolate immediately (with a mask) and call their health care provider to facilitate follow-up (provider should contact DPH to arrange medical transport).

This situation continues to be dynamic and ever changing. We will provide updates as they occur.