

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) FAQ & Fact Sheet

What is COVID-19?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring an outbreak caused by a new coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Cases have been identified in multiple countries; including the United States. Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause illness in both people and animals, depending on the virus.

What are the Signs and Symptoms?

Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing

CDC believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 after exposure. If you have traveled to or around Wuhan, China in recent weeks, or know someone who has, and are displaying these symptoms, **please call your healthcare provider and alert the Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) at 785.806.6297.**

How can I Protect Myself?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The CDC is recommending avoiding travel to China. The SCHD recommends everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.

There are NO confirmed cases in Shawnee County*

This is an emerging and rapidly evolving situation and the SCHD will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available. According to the CDC, the immediate health risk to the general public from COVID-19 is considered **low risk** at this time.