



# CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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*"Working to enhance our community's total well-being"*

**TO:** Community, School, and Municipal Leaders of Calhoun County

**FROM:** Calhoun County Public Health Department

**DATE:** February 27, 2020

**RE: Update Information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

As of February 27, 2020, there have been no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) reported in the State of Michigan and no persons under investigation in Calhoun County. The Calhoun County Public Health Department is closely following updates to the guidance issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The COVID-19 can be spread from person to person. At this time, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it. Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions may be at increased risk for severe disease. We encourage community partners, health care providers, schools, and municipalities to help prevent the spread of viruses such as the flu, common cold, and COVID-19 by promoting the preventative measures that all Calhoun County residents can take:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and proceed to wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please help us relay the above preventative measures by sharing with your clients, students and parents, and residents. Individuals are still at a higher risk of getting the flu than COVID-19. Therefore, we encourage people to get their flu shot if they have not done so already.

To date, the COVID-19 Travel Health Notices below have been issued for the following countries:

- Level 3 (avoid all nonessential travel): People's Republic of China and South Korea
- Level 2 (practice enhanced precautions): Iran, Italy, and Japan
- Level 1 (practice usual precautions): Hong Kong

If your organization, school or municipality has questions regarding travel plans, we highly encourage you to consult the CDC's travel advisories online at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>, call their information line at 888-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or the TTY line at 888-232-6348. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/contact>.

As a reminder, the role of local public health and the specific steps Calhoun County Public Health Department is taking during this outbreak, are as follows:

- Actively monitor COVID-19 outbreak.
- Partner with state and federal agencies for communication and guidance on COVID-19 to the public and healthcare professionals.
- Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies for risk assessment and action steps regarding persons returning from China on or after February 3, 2020.
- Coordinate with healthcare professionals on designating patients as a person under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19.
- Coordinate with healthcare systems on determining appropriate setting for evaluation and monitoring of PUI.

We are regularly receiving ongoing guidance and information from MDHHS and CDC. We are committed to providing all community partners, schools, and municipalities updated information as it is received so informed decisions can be made. It cannot be emphasized enough that the Calhoun County Public Health Department is here as a resource for all questions or concerns you may have regarding any public health matter. We thank you for your partnership in protecting the health of our community.

Sincerely,



**Eric Pessell, REHS, BA – Health Officer**



**William Nettleton, MD, MPH – Medical Director**

#### **Additional Resources**

For up-to-date information about the COVID-19, preventative measures, guidance for travelers, and frequently asked questions, please review the following resources:

- MDHHS Coronavirus, [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus)
- CDC Coronavirus, [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)
- CDC Travel Advisories, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>