



KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release
2019 novel Coronavirus

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What is the City of Kent doing to respond to 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

The Kent City Health Department has been working with the Portage County Health District, Portage County Emergency Management Agency, and its community partners to plan a strongly coordinated community response to public health emergencies using the national Incident Command Structure. The Incident Command Structure, including the Joint Information Center (JIC), is an efficient and well-planned way to prepare for and respond to public health and safety concerns.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans.

How is it spread?

COVID-19 can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other (within about six feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is also possible for an individual to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing

How can I protect myself?

CDC continues to recommend Americans use typical infectious disease precautions, just as those used to prevent cold or flu:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs/sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are ill.

Clean and disinfect all “high-touch” objects and surfaces every day.

What you need to know:

If you have recently traveled to **China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea** or other outbreak areas and you have symptoms of novel coronavirus (fever, cough, difficulty breathing), **seek medical care right away. Call your healthcare provider BEFORE arriving and tell them your symptoms and travel history.**

For general questions about COVID-19, call the Ohio Department of Health call center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH. The call center is open 7 days a week from 9:00am-8:00pm.

Additional information on the Coronavirus, including resources for health care workers, community and faith-based organizations, etc. can be found on the Kent City website at www.kentohio.org/coronavirus, the Ohio Department of Health website at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home> and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.