

GUIDANCE TO ALL NURSES, HEALTH PROVIDERS, CBO PARTNERS WITH OSH – 01/29/2020

To: OSH Staff

**From: Demetre Daskalakis, M.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Disease Control**

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Director of School Health**

A recent outbreak of a novel (new) coronavirus that began in the Chinese city of Wuhan has, as of January 27, 2020, infected almost 3000 people worldwide, primarily in China. This is a dynamic situation and we are learning more on a daily basis. Symptoms of infection are similar to common viral respiratory infections and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. The recent spread of this illness confirms that it may be transmitted from person to person. To date there have been a few cases in the United States and none in New York City. There is currently no specific treatment or vaccine for this new coronavirus infection. Confirming the diagnosis requires testing which is currently only available in the United States at the CDC. General recommendations for prevention of a respiratory illness that apply to this new coronavirus can be found on the [Department of Health website](#) and include frequent hand-washing.

As is standard procedure, staff should continue to send home students with respiratory symptoms and fever. Students who appear seriously ill should seek additional medical evaluation. Medical providers should call the NYC Department of Health Provider Access Line at 1-866-692-3641 if evaluating a student in whom there is a concern for novel coronavirus infection. More information for medical providers can be found on the [DOHMH website](#) and on the [CDC website](#).

[2/6 LaShawn to all principals, ES, sups, BCO,etc backpack time families](#)