

TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak Update

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The Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to evolve worldwide. To date there have been no cases in CT but that may change as community transmission has occurred in other states.

Over 88,000 cases have been reported globally, including 60 within the United States. The 60 US cases are from 12 states and include six deaths.

The Killingworth Health Department encourages residents to obtain updates on the outbreak from the following two reliable sources, CT Department of Public Health, www.ct.gov/coronavirus, and the CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection (likely over a year away) and no antiviral medication has been approved yet.

Person-to-person spread of the virus is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Much is still unknown about how the virus spreads. Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath.

There are everyday preventative actions that people can take to help stop the spread of germs.

- ✓ Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✓ 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.

Steps to take if you do get sick:

- Stay home except to get medical care.
- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home.
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor.
- Wear a facemask.

- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid sharing personal household items.
- Clean “high-touch” surfaces every day.
- Monitor your symptoms.

Residents may want to reconsider international travel plans due to the uncertainty of travel restrictions, particularly re-entry into the US.

For more information, please contact the Killingworth Health Department at (860) 663-1765 x223.

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