



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

To: DDS Leadership Team, DDS Regional Health Services Directors
DDS Qualified Providers
From: Valencia Bagby-Young, Director of Health and Clinical Services
Date: January 29, 2020
Re: **DDS RESPONSE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been closely monitoring the recent developments regarding the outbreak of a coronavirus (Novel Coronavirus) in China, after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced several confirmed cases in the United States.

DDS advises qualified providers and their employees to adhere to universal precautions and the additional recommendations outlined below. Employees should notify primary care providers or hospital medical professionals of any individual who has recently traveled to China and has developed upper respiratory symptoms. Qualified providers also should notify the DDS Regional Health Services Director and the DDS Director of Health and Clinical Services at the Central Office of any suspected cases of the Novel Coronavirus.

Coronavirus, colds, influenza (flu), and other respiratory viruses are spread through the air and by touching contaminated surfaces or objects. Please adhere to the following recommendations:

1. Universal Precautions.
2. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
3. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash and then wash your hands.
4. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if soap and water are not available.
5. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Unless contraindicated by a healthcare provider, employees and individuals receiving services from DDS are encouraged to receive the seasonal Influenza vaccine.

DDS defers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CT Department of Public Health (DPH) for the most current information, updates and recommendations regarding the Novel Coronavirus. At this time, the CDC has issued a Level 3 warning against any nonessential travel to China. Please visit the website links on the second page of this memo for additional resources and information.

CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES

Press Release – Governor Lamont Tells Residents State Closely Monitoring for Possible Cases of Coronavirus

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/01-2020/Governor-Lamont-Tells-Residents-State-Closely-Monitoring-for-Possible-Cases-of-Coronavirus>

CDC Situation Summary

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

CDC About 2019 Novel Coronavirus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

CDC FAQ

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Novel Coronavirus Factsheet

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

Preventing Spread to Others in Homes and the Community

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html>