

**From:** [Aragon, Tomas \(DPH\)](#)  
**To:** [Kagan, Rachael \(DPH\)](#); [Colfax, Grant \(DPH\)](#); [Bobba, Naveena \(DPH\)](#); [Philip, Susan \(DPH\)](#); [Stoltey, Juliet \(DPH\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Stier, David \(DPH\)](#); [Nguyen, Rita \(DPH\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: help with language in light of new case  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 7:59:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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How about something like:

Risk of infection is based on exposure to the novel coronavirus in locations where it has spread (now 30+ countries), or by close contact to a confirmed case.

Country count is here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html>

## Confirmed 2019-nCoV Cases Globally | CDC

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[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Tomas

p.s. plz excuse typos

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*"Radical transformational leadership is leading change from the universal values of dignity, equity, compassion and humility to transform self, people, systems and cultures towards equity and sustainable results."* (learn more <http://bit.ly/phd-lead>)

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**From:** Kagan, Rachael (DPH) <rachael.kagan@sfdph.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** Colfax, Grant (DPH) <grant.colfax@sfdph.org>; Bobba, Naveena (DPH) <naveena.bobba@sfdph.org>; Philip, Susan (DPH) <susan.philip@sfdph.org>; Aragon, Tomas (DPH) <tomas.aragon@sfdph.org>; Stoltey, Juliet (DPH) <juliet.stoltey@sfdph.org>

**Cc:** Stier, David (DPH) <david.stier@sfdph.org>; Nguyen, Rita (DPH) <rita.nguyen@sfdph.org>

**Subject:** help with language in light of new case

Hi team,

So much happening. I'd like to draw your attention to one particular question (among many).

In terms of the xenophobia and discrimination theme, we have been saying: **This virus is not about race, ethnicity or culture. The risk of getting COVID-19 is based on travel history, and contacts with people who are sick.**

In light of the new California case having no travel history and no known contacts with travelers or people who are sick, how would we modify our statement? I realize we don't have all the answers right now, but the Mayor and Carmen Chu are submitting an op-ed **tomorrow** about discrimination, and I am helping them update this language. How about:

**Risk for the novel coronavirus is based on travel history, contacts and exposure to the virus.**

Is that safe to say? Note that this is not a clinical piece, but we still want to be accurate.

Thank you,

Rachael

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**From:** CDPHPress (OPA) <CDPHPressOPA@cdph.ca.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 5:39 PM

**To:** CDPHOPA@LISTSERV.CDPH.CA.GOV

**Subject:** News Release: CDC Confirms Possible First Instance of COVID-19 Community Transmission in California

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**News Release**

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 26, 2020

PH20-006

**CONTACT:** Corey Egel | 916.440.7259 | [CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov)

## **CDC Confirms Possible First Instance of COVID-19 Community Transmission in California**

SACRAMENTO – The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today confirmed a possible first case of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in California in the general public. The individual is a resident of Solano County and is receiving medical care in Sacramento County. The individual had no known exposure to the virus through travel or close contact with a known infected individual.

California has a strong health care system and public health infrastructure. California has prepared for the potential spread of diseases, such as H1N1, in the past and is prepared and actively responding to the potential community spread of COVID-19. Contact tracing in this case has already begun.

The health risk from novel coronavirus to the general public remains low at this time. While COVID-19 has a high transmission rate, it has a low mortality rate. From the international data we have, of those who have tested positive for COVID-19, approximately 80 percent do not exhibit symptoms that would require hospitalization. There have been no confirmed deaths related to COVID-19 in the United States to date. California is carefully assessing the situation as it evolves.

“Keeping Californians safe and healthy is our number one priority,” said Dr. Sonia Angell, Director of the California Department of Public Health and State Public Health Officer. “This has been an evolving situation, which California has been monitoring and responding to since COVID-19 cases first emerged in China last year. This is a new virus, and while we are still learning about it, there is a lot we already know. We have been anticipating the potential for such a case in the U.S., and given our close familial, social and business relationships with China, it is not unexpected that the first case in the U.S. would be in California. That’s why California has been working closely with federal and local partners, including health care providers and hospitals, since the outbreak was first reported in China -- and we are already responding.”

As in any public health emergency, the Department of Public Health's Emergency Operations Center has been actively coordinating response efforts across the state and preparing for possible community transmission. California continues to prepare and respond in coordination with federal and local partners.

This would be the first known instance of person-to-person transmission in the general public in the United States. Previously known instances of person-to-person transmission in the United States include one instance in Chicago, Illinois, and one in San Benito County, California. Both cases were after close, prolonged interaction with a family member who returned from Wuhan, China and had tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by novel coronavirus. As of today, including this case, California has had 7 travel-related cases, one close contact case, and now one community transmission.

As with any virus, especially during the flu season, the Health Department reminds you there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

- Washing hands with soap and water.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick are all ways to reduce the risk of infection with a number of different viruses.
- Staying away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory

symptoms like fever and cough.

The California Department of Public Health will not be providing additional information about this patient due to patient confidentiality. For more information about novel coronavirus, please visit the [CDPH website](#).

[www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

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<https://listserv.cdph.ca.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=CDPHOPA&A=1>

**From:** [CCSF Alert](#)  
**To:** [Colfax, Grant \(DPH\)](#)  
**Subject:** CCSF Situation Report - Update - COVID-19 (#18)  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 7:54:57 PM  
**Importance:** High

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## Situation Report - Update - COVID-19 (#18)

Department of Emergency Management  
Division of Emergency Services

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02-26-2020 - 19:50:40

### Change Since Last Situation Report:

#### Situation Update:

- **International data:**
  - 81,322 confirmed cases; 78,064 cases in mainland China; 2,719 deaths in mainland China; 55 deaths outside mainland China
  - 3,258 confirmed cases outside of China across 47 countries/regions. (*total includes 705 cases on the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked at Yokohama, Japan*)
- **National (U.S.) data:**
  - 15 total confirmed cases in the USA (*does not include 42 patients repatriated from the Diamond Princess to Travis AFB, Lockland AFB, Providence Sacred Heart-Spokane or the University of Nebraska-Omaha or the 3 repatriated from Wuhan*)
- **There are no confirmed cases among San Francisco residents.**
  - The risk of COVID-19 in California remains low.
- <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
  - *NOTE: Information may vary as events and reporting are rapidly evolving.*
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today confirmed a possible first case of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in California in the general public. The individual is a resident of Solano County and is receiving medical care in Sacramento County. The individual had no known exposure to the virus through travel or close contact with a known infected individual.
- **There are no recommendations to cancel events.**
- **We are in flu season. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends that persons with symptoms stay home from work, school and social gatherings. Practice hand-washing precautions. It is not too late to get the flu vaccine.**
- The City and County of San Francisco, led by the Health Department, is working on preventing the virus, containing its spread, and reducing harm in the community. We are focused on the most vulnerable groups, including children, people in congregate settings and the elderly. However, every sector has a role to play to ensure community health and safety. The health care system, schools, businesses and individuals can all do their part.

#### SFDEM Activities:

- To support the Department of Public Health response, the Department of Emergency Management continues expanded activation of San Francisco's Emergency Operations Center to assist with coordination of resources and established a Community Branch comprised of community, faith, business and education partners. As a result, community and government partners can work together to identify and coordinate our response to emerging issues.
- Mayor Breed made an emergency declaration to strengthen the City's preparedness and to surge

resources and capabilities, and ensure San Francisco is as ready as possible in the event that the new virus comes to our community. The declaration was announced by the Mayor during a press conference on February 25, 2020.

- The declaration of a local emergency will mobilize city resources, accelerate emergency planning, streamline staffing, coordinate agencies across the city, allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments and raise awareness throughout San Francisco about how everyone can prepare in the event that COVID-19 appears in our community.

#### **SFDPH Activities:**

- SFDPH DOC expanded community outreach and mitigation efforts, working closely with the CCSF Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in anticipation of increased inquiries due to the declaration of a local emergency.
- SFDPH is focusing on providing a comprehensive picture of past and current preparation and mitigation efforts, forward leaning departmental objectives, and the data and information being used to guide the work.
- SFDPH and the EOC are collaborating to create a process for routing briefing and other informational requests (from media and non-media sources) to the appropriate channels.
- SFDPH drafted guidelines for housing plans for confirmed COVID-19 cases, potential COVID-19 cases, and medium risk individuals who live in congregate living situations including Single Room Occupancies (SROs).
- SFDPH completed a preparedness consultation site visit to Chinese Hospital 02/25/20 and UCSF Mission Bay today 02/26/20.
- SF Public Health Laboratory is strengthening their safety measures for lab personnel, including enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements.
- SF Public Health Laboratory is still awaiting delivery of CDC testing kits. CDC reported they will have a ship date for the testing kits by the end of this week.
- SFDPH is updating their COVID-19 Fact Sheet to include the most recent updates and align messaging and information across DPH and CCSF sites.
- SFDPH Public Information Office recently completed a COVID-19 prevention focused informational poster, which will soon be displayed on BART Trains.
- SFDPH CDCP information: <https://www.sfdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-%20%20coronavirus/>

#### **Public Information:**

- SFDPH and the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management (DEM) continue to operate the Joint Information Center to develop and disseminate accurate, timely, relevant and accessible public information about COVID-19. The Joint Information Center will expand to include additional regular members from other city agencies.
- Public Information Objectives:
  1. Rumor Control
  2. Engagement and Outreach with the multilingual communities
  3. Manage media inquiries and requests
  4. Develop simplified and accessible public information education materials
  5. Create a COVID-19 communications toolkit for NGOs and community serving organizations to increase public information and education among diverse and at risk communities
- DPH and DEM have public announcement plans should a San Francisco resident contract COVID-19. The Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) continues to translate emerging materials in all threshold languages.
- Talking points were updated to include key messages regarding the San Francisco emergency declaration and continued emphasis on preparedness
- DPH and DEM Public Information Officers (PIOs) continue to respond to media inquiries and prioritize Chinese language media. Public messaging also highlights ongoing preparedness work for possible COVID-19 cases in San Francisco in the future.
- 311 has received an increase of incoming call volume due to the emergency declaration announced Tuesday

#### **CDPH (California Department of Public Health):**

CDPH reported new cases of COVID-19 in CA in the 24 hours. Number of confirmed cases in CA: 7 travel-related, 1 close contact case and 1 community case.

- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

**CDC (U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention):**

- CDC updated their travel advisory to include South Korea. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-south-korea>
- CDC reports that to date 445 people have been tested in the U.S.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

**WHO (World Health Organization):**

- WHO stated that 4 new countries (Algeria, Austria, Croatia, and Switzerland) reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. (as of 02/26/20)
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

**Resources:**

- Department of Public Health (SFDPH): <https://www.sfdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-coronavirus/>
- SFDPH's Policy for return travelers: <https://www.sfdcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Interim-Guidance-on-Monitoring-and-Movement-for-San-Franciscans-and-Travel-Before-Feb-3rd-SFDPH-FINAL-02.07.2020.pdf>
- SFDPH COVID-19 clinical intake form: <https://www.sfdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-coronavirus/coronavirus-2019-information-for-healthcare-providers/>
- SFDPH General Facts: <https://www.sfdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-%20%20%20coronavirus/>
- Department of Emergency Management (DEM): <https://SF72.org>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC Respirator Supply Strategy Guidelines: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-supply-strategies.html>)
- World Health Organization (WHO): <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- For operational coordination and information sharing, visit WebEOC (<https://sfvem.org>) under Incident Name: 2020-01-21 2019 Covid-19 (formerly 2020-01-21 2019-nCoV). Note - WebEOC is password protected.

**Situation Summary:**

- CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19 that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand.
- Chinese health officials have reported thousands of infections with COVID-19 in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person in many parts of that country.
- Infections with COVID-19, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, also are being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States.

**DEM Contact Information:**

Duty Officer (415) 260-2591

Watch Center Operations (415) 558-2738; operational Mon-Sun, 0600-2200 Hours

Email: [demdutyofficer@sfgov.org](mailto:demdutyofficer@sfgov.org)

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