

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ventura County Public Health Press Release**

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**Update from Ventura County Public Health on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

Ventura, CA – The Ventura County Public Health Department continues to take steps to prevent the spread of 2019 novel coronavirus. The health and wellbeing of the community remains Public Health’s top priority. In Ventura County, as in counties across the US, the threat to the general public for contracting the coronavirus remains low.

There are no confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in Ventura County. There have been reports of two possible cases in Ventura County. Samples were taken from both patients and sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Results for one patient were negative and results for the second patient are still pending. The patient is in isolation until the results become available. Initially, testing for the novel coronavirus was being done at the CDC Laboratory. Moving forward, the Ventura County Public Health Laboratory will conduct testing of any possible cases of the novel coronavirus.

“At this time the chances that someone will encounter a person infected with this new coronavirus in Ventura County are very small. Public Health monitoring is ongoing and thorough. We will inform the public if the situation changes,” said Doctor Robert Levin, Ventura County Public Health Medical Director.

Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that are common among animals and humans. In rare cases, animal coronaviruses can be transmitted from animals to humans. The 2019 novel coronavirus is a newly discovered coronavirus that has not been previously detected in animals or humans. The source of the novel coronavirus is not yet known. Typically, human coronaviruses cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illness. Symptoms are very similar to the flu, including runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, fever and shortness of breath.

If you have recently traveled to China, and you have become ill with fever, cough or shortness of breath, please call Ventura County Public Health Communicable Diseases at 805-981-5101.

As with any virus, especially during the flu season, VCPH reminds you of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you. Wash hands with soap and water. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If someone does become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, they should stay away from work, school or other people to avoid spreading illness.

For the most up to date information regarding the 2019 novel coronavirus, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.