

First Presumptive Positive COVID-19 Cases in Pennsylvania

DATE:	3/6/2020
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Rachel Levine, MD, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	First Presumptive Positive COVID-19 Cases in Pennsylvania
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	n/a
STREET ADDRESS:	n/a
COUNTY:	n/a
MUNICIPALITY:	n/a
ZIP CODE:	n/a

This transmission is a “Health Alert”, conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

On March 6, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) was notified of two presumptive positive 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Wayne County and Delaware

- The first two Pennsylvania cases of COVID-19 were identified on 3/6/2020 in residents of Wayne County and Delaware County. The cases are unrelated
- As of 3/6/2020, there is no evidence of community transmission of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania
- Clinical suspicion of COVID-19 should be based on both clinical and epidemiological criteria
- Call **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** or your local health department if you suspect COVID-19
- Testing for COVID-19 is available at DOH and at commercial laboratories as they come online

County. These are the first two known instances of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania.

The case-patients are residents of Wayne County and Delaware County. The two cases are not related. One case-patient traveled to a country with a Level 3 Health Alert, and the other case-patient was a close contact of a confirmed case in another state. As of 3/6/2020, there is no evidence of community transmission of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. No additional cases have been detected at this time. DOH is working to identify and notify close contacts of the case-patients.

When assessing patients for COVID-19, it is important to consider both clinical and epidemiological criteria. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or signs/symptoms of lower

respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath). Epidemiological criteria include travel to an area with sustained community transmission or close contact with a confirmed case.

Testing for COVID-19 is available at DOH and at commercial laboratories as they come online. **If COVID-19 is suspected, contact DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department to facilitate consultation and to assist with testing, diagnosis, and tracking of close contacts.**

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of March 6, 2020 but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.