



The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What is COVID-19?

- The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified.
- This virus was found to be the cause of the December 2019 outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

What is the source of COVID-19?

- Public health officials are working to identify the original animal source of this virus.
- Current analysis indicates it originated in bats. It is not currently known whether the virus jumped directly from bats, or if there was an intermediary animal host.

Am I at risk of getting COVID-19?

- This is a dynamic and fluid situation with information changing quickly.
- There has been person-to-person transmission of the virus in New York State and other places in the United States.

What are the signs and symptoms of the virus?

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

How does the virus spread?

- COVID-19 is spread from person-to-person.
- That is why individuals need to be isolated until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.
- How long someone is actively sick is determined on a case-by-case basis and includes: disease severity, signs and symptoms of illness, and laboratory testing.

How can I help protect myself?

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- 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.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Should I be concerned about products from China?

- The current understanding is that products from China do not pose a risk to the public.
- There is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission from imported goods.

Should I travel?

- CDC recommendations regarding travel change frequently.
- For the most updated travel information visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

What is being done to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Putnam County?

- The Putnam County Department of Health is taking a leadership role, in close consultation with the New York State DOH and the CDC.
- Complying with State and National guidance.
- Monitoring all travelers per CDC guidance.
- Educating residents and healthcare providers.
- Identifying local resources.
- Ensuring staff are prepared.

For the most up-to-date local information:

www.putnamcountyny.com/health

www.facebook.com/putnamhealthny

www.twitter.com/putnamhealthny

www.instagram.com/putnamhealthny

For more information:

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

NYSDOH <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>