What is novel coronavirus?
Novel coronavirus is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. See information about 2019 Novel Coronavirus on the CDC website.

Where did the novel coronavirus come from?
The novel coronavirus may have started as an infection of animals in China, and then moved to infect people. The animal source of novel coronavirus is unknown right now.

Has anyone in the United States gotten infected?
Yes. The first novel coronavirus infection was reported on January 21, 2020. CDC is tracking the number of infections in the United States; all infections have been in people who had traveled from Hubei Province or were living in the same house as someone who was infected while traveling in Hubei Province. Information on the current U.S. case count of Novel Coronavirus infections can viewed on the CDC website.

Is San Francisco investigating any cases of novel coronavirus now? How many people have been tested?
There are currently no confirmed cases in San Francisco residents. Health officials will make an announcement if a case is confirmed here. The state health department is collecting data on the number of Californians tested, and the CDC is updating national numbers of tested people on its website.

How does the virus spread?
This virus seems able to spread from person-to-person, when someone who is sick with the novel coronavirus is in close contact with another person. For example, the virus can be passed when someone with novel coronavirus coughs or sneezes. We expect to learn more about how novel coronavirus spreads.

What are the symptoms of novel coronavirus?
People infected with novel coronavirus have reported illnesses that have ranged from people being mildly sick to people being severely ill, requiring hospitalization. Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath.

If I have fever, cough, or shortness of breath, do I have novel coronavirus?
It is cold and flu season now, and many people have symptoms of illness that are not related to novel coronavirus. If you have been in China within the past 14 days and you have fever, cough, or shortness of breath, contact your medical provider right away and tell them about your travel. Be sure to call ahead before you visit the office, clinic, or hospital, so that the medical provider can prepare for your visit.

What if I recently traveled to China and I am sick?
If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or shortness of breath, seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor’s office, clinic, or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms so that they can prepare for your visit.
**What should I know and do if I recently traveled to mainland China?**

Given the increasing spread of novel coronavirus in mainland China, the CDC issued new guidance and is closely monitor returning travelers from mainland China beginning 02/03/2020 in partnership with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH).

By federal order, as of February 3, 2020:

- **Foreign nationals returning from mainland China will not be allowed entry into the U.S. unless they are immediate family of U.S. citizens or permanent residents.**

- **All U.S. citizens returning from Hubei Province, China will be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine by the federal government.**

- **U.S. citizens returning from other parts of mainland China who have fever, cough, or shortness of breath will undergo mandatory quarantine. Do not go to school, work, or social gatherings.** This does not include travel to Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan. If this applies to you, please call SFDPH at (415) 554 – 2830.

- **U.S. citizens returning from other parts of mainland China who DO NOT have fever, cough, or shortness of breath will undergo self-quarantine at home with monitoring by their local health department. Do not go to school, work, or social gatherings.** This does not include travel to Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan. If this applies to you, please call SFDPH at (415) 554 – 2830.

SFDPH recommends that travelers who returned from mainland China BEFORE February 3rd monitor themselves for 14 days after their last day in mainland China. If symptoms (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) occur during that time, please contact your health provider, inform them of your travel history and self-isolate at home pending their advice. Do not go to work, school or social events if you have these symptoms.

Please [review the SFDPH Interim Guidance for Returning Travelers from China](#) for more information about what to do if you recently traveled to China.

**How can I help protect myself from getting sick with novel coronavirus?**

CDC currently recommends avoiding all non-essential travel to China where most cases of novel coronavirus is occurring. Use everyday preventive actions to keep from catching an infection, including, novel coronavirus:

- 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.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.
- Get a flu shot to help prevent influenza, which has symptoms similar to novel coronavirus.

**Should I be wearing a mask to prevent getting novel coronavirus?**

Good handwashing techniques are the most effective way to prevent yourself from getting sick. This means washing your hands often with soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds.
seconds. If you have a fever or cough, a face mask is recommended to prevent spread of germs to others around you. Because there is no novel coronavirus spreading in San Francisco, there is no recommendation to wear masks at this time. However, if you choose to wear a face mask, it is important to understand that face masks are not a substitute for handwashing which is the priority.

Is it safe to travel to China?

CDC currently recommends that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to China. Stay up to date with CDC's travel health notices related to this outbreak.

Is there a vaccine for novel coronavirus?

Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against novel coronavirus.

What is the treatment if someone gets sick with novel coronavirus?

The treatment right now is to take care of the symptoms. There is no specific treatment for novel coronavirus. Patients who are confirmed to have novel coronavirus will be cared for by health care professionals, working closely with the Department of Public Health.

How are passengers from China being screened at San Francisco International Airport (SFO)?

All incoming flights to SFO from China are screened by the CDC. If people come off a plane with symptoms, the CDC will follow their protocols and work directly with pre-identified hospitals and the county health department according to disease prevention and containment procedures. SFO is located in San Mateo County. The San Francisco Department of Public Health is ready for any patients that may be arriving to SFO and require care in San Francisco. SFDPH is in close touch with the CDC throughout all aspects of testing and treatment.

What is the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) doing to protect our health?

The San Francisco Department of Public Health is working closely with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to closely monitor novel coronavirus. Responding to outbreaks like this one is what the CDC, CDPH, and Public Health Departments do best. We are working closely with our public health partners, health care providers and community partners to take action to prevent the spread of disease and protect the public’s health.

Where can I get more information?

You can visit the San Francisco Department of Public Health’s Communicable Disease Website at: www.sfcdcp.org/novelcoronavirus. All links provided on this document can also be found on that webpage.