



New Castle Fire Department

43 Main Street New Castle, New Hampshire 03854



Ted Hartmann
Fire Chief

Non-Emergency: (603) 436-1132
Dispatch/Emergency: (603) 436-2515
Fax: (603) 430-0162

The New Castle Fire Department, Health Officer and Board of Selectmen are actively monitoring the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the region. A chain of communication and free exchange of information, updated as conditions change, is ensuring the municipality is ready to address all public health concerns. The Fire and Emergency Management Departments have ensured the readiness of equipment, the Health Officer is monitoring the virus transmission and the Select Board has ensured the logistics and special needs of these departments are met. It is our hope that this factual resource can assist you in gathering additional information and provide points of contact for questions.

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What are coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, but only several types are known to commonly cause infections in people, with these common human coronaviruses usually causing mild to moderate respiratory illness (like the common cold). Newer human coronaviruses, like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and the COVID-19 can cause more severe symptoms. The COVID-19 is originally thought to have spread from animals to humans, but now person-to-person spread is occurring.

How is it spread?

It's not clear yet how easily COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person. Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets, including:

- Through the air by coughing and sneezing;
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

This is similar to how influenza and other respiratory infections spread. Until we learn more about how easily the COVID-19 spreads between people, healthcare providers may wear special personal protective equipment (e.g. masks and eye protection) when evaluating a patient if there is concern for infection with the COVID-19.

What are the symptoms?

We are still learning about how the COVID-19 affects people. Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Symptoms of people with confirmed COVID-19 infections have primarily included:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing

If you have traveled to/from China and develop symptoms of a fever or respiratory illness within 14 days of your travel, contact your health care provider ***before*** going to their office or the emergency department, and tell them about your recent travel and symptoms. You can also contact the NH Division of Public Health Services at 603-271-4496, if you have questions or concerns.

How can I protect myself and others?

There are steps you can take to reduce your risk of getting sick from viral respiratory infections, and help prevent transmitting infections to others, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
- Stay home from work or school if you have a fever or are not feeling well

Masks and respirators do not need to be worn in public at this time and residents are encouraged to wear them only while traveling to, and being evaluated for, symptoms by a health care provider.

Local points of contact for Coronavirus questions:

Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Ted Hartmann
Firechief@newcastlenh.org OR (603) 436-1132

Health Officer James Zuckerman
(603) 431-6710

Coronavirus website resources:

New England Public Health Center: <https://sites.bu.edu/nephtc/covid-19-resources/>

Seacoast Public Health Network: www.seacoastphn.org See Resources page and News and Events

CDC: www.cdc.gov

DHHS Bureau of Infectious Disease: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>