Coronaviruses are common throughout the world and mostly cause mild to moderate illness. They are one cause of common colds.

This is a new coronavirus that can cause more serious respiratory illness in people. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Cases in the U.S. have been associated with travel to China, especially Hubei Province, or with close contact with a known case.

Illness has ranged from mild to severe respiratory illness including pneumonia with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

People at greatest risk are people with a travel history to China or close contact with a known case. Immediate risk to U.S. public at this time is low.

There are simple everyday actions to help prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.