

EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES
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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Nassau County
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Background

On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the current outbreak of coronavirus disease, COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization named the disease coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated "COVID-19").

Chinese health officials have reported tens of thousands of cases of COVID-19 in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person in parts of that country. COVID-19 illnesses, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, also are being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States. Some person-to-person spread of this virus outside China has been detected. The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread with this virus on January 30, 2020.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2).

Situation in U.S.

Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the U.S. As of February 19, fifteen cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States. Most cases of COVID-19 in the United States have been associated with travel from China but some person-to-person spread among close contacts of travelers has been seen. Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 also has been seen among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan, but at this time, this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States.

DISEASE REPORTING

Phone
(904) 875-6100

Confidential Fax Line
(904) 428-5630

After Hours Line
(904) 813-6801

Bureau of Epidemiology
24 Hour Reporting Line
(850) 245-4401

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NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOCATIONS

Fernandina Beach Clinic
1620 Nectarine Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 557-9130

Yulee Clinic
86014 Pages Dairy Road
Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 875-6110

Callahan Clinic
45377 Mickler Street
Callahan, FL 32011
(904) 320-6010

Hilliard Clinic
37203 Pecan Street
Hilliard, FL 32046
(904) 320-6020



The U.S. government has taken unprecedented steps related to travel in response to the growing public health threat posed by this new coronavirus, including suspending entry in the United States of foreign nationals who have visited China within the past 14 days. Measures monitor the health of those who are allowed entry into the United States (U.S. citizens, residents and family) who have been in China within 14 days also are being implemented.

Symptoms

For confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms can include:

- ✦ Fever
- ✦ Cough
- ✦ Shortness of breath

CDC believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses. More cases are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States. It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including in the United States.

Infection Control Considerations

- ✦ Persons under investigation (PUIs) should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room, if available.
- ✦ While a PUI for COVID-19 is receiving health care, it is important that standard, contact, and airborne precautions are used. CDC is aware that there are current supply chain concerns during the COVID-19 Response and you may have questions about expired PPE that is past its intended shelf life. CDC would like to encourage recipients, including local health departments, to maintain any stockpiles of expired PPE that is past its intended shelf life until further guidance can be provided. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is working with both the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to determine additional guidance on expired PPE past its intended shelf life.
- ✦ A PUI may be discharged before COVID-19 is ruled out. The decision to discharge a PUI for COVID-19 is up to the treating physician. PUIs should be provided surgical masks and asked to isolate themselves at home until fever and symptom-free for 24 hours without antipyretic medication (acetaminophen, ibuprofen). Health care facilities caring for PUIs should admit or discharge as needed for necessary clinical care, not for the purpose of public health investigation.
- ✦ For confirmed COVID-19 cases, the decision to discharge is based on public health and medical assessment with the Department of Health (DOH), including presence of symptoms and multiple negative specimens.

Resources

Health care providers who identify a possible PUI for COVID-19 should contact the Nassau County Health Department (Nassau CHD) immediately 24/7 by phone upon initial suspicion at 904-875-6100. Nassau CHD on-call staff can be reached after hours and on weekends at 904-813-6801. If you cannot reach Nassau CHD, please contact the DOH Bureau of Epidemiology at 850-245-4401.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and guidance may change as public health professionals determine more about this outbreak. For the latest situation updates, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

HEPATITIS A

**Situation in Florida**

From January 1, 2018 through February 15, 2020, 4,184 hepatitis A cases have been reported in Florida. On Aug. 1, 2019, Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees issued a Public Health Emergency to address the increase in Hepatitis A cases in Florida due to the current national outbreak. Nassau County currently has fourteen reported cases of Hepatitis A. Prior to the start of this outbreak, Nassau County had not had a reported case since 2005. Despite the recent rise in cases, you can protect yourself from the virus and help stop hepatitis A in Florida.

Remember to **VEST** against hepatitis A: **V**accinate, **E**ducate yourself, practice basic **S**anitation by washing your hands, and know that FDOH and our health partners are **T**racking the virus with the goal of bringing this outbreak to an end.

**VACCINATE**

Hepatitis A vaccination is your best protection against the virus. Most vaccinations come in two doses given six months apart.

FDOH recommends vaccination if you:

- ✦ Are homeless or your housing is unstable.
- ✦ Use illicit recreational drugs—injected or not.
- ✦ Want protection (immunity) from the virus.
- ✦ Have adopted or care for a child who comes from a country where hepatitis A is common.
- ✦ Are 60 or older and have a serious underlying medical condition.
- ✦ Have chronic or long-term liver disease, including hepatitis B or C.
- ✦ Have a clotting-factor disorder.
- ✦ Have come into direct contact with others who have the virus.
- ✦ Are a man who has sex with other men.
- ✦ Have traveled to or will travel to countries where the virus is common—visit the [CDC's Traveler's Health](#).
- ✦ Use [VaccineFinder.org](#) to find vaccine in your area.



EDUCATE

Hepatitis A is caused by a contagious virus that infects the liver—it can lead to serious liver problems. The virus spreads through the feces of people who have the virus. If a person with the virus doesn't wash their hands after going to the bathroom, feces can get on their hands and can transfer to objects, food and drinks. When these things are shared, other people can unknowingly swallow the virus. If a person who has the virus comes in close contact or touches other people—this includes sex—the virus can also spread.

Did you know that a person can have hepatitis A for up to two weeks without feeling sick but during that time they are spreading the virus to others? Symptoms usually start two–six weeks after infection and last less than two months.



SANITATION

Know hepatitis symptoms:

- ✦ Stomach pain
- ✦ Nausea
- ✦ Vomiting
- ✦ Yellow skin or eyes (jaundice)
- ✦ Diarrhea
- ✦ No appetite
- ✦ Joint pain
- ✦ Pale or clay-colored feces
- ✦ Dark-colored urine
- ✦ Fever
- ✦ Fatigue

Preventing human contact with feces is what sanitation is about. Wash your hands with soap and water and help stop the spread of hepatitis A.

Stop the spread of hepatitis A and wash your hands:

- ✦ After you use the bathroom—use soap and warm, running water and wash for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not kill hepatitis A germs.
- ✦ After you touch people or public surfaces; change a diaper; cough, sneeze or use a tissue; use tobacco; and eat or drink.
- ✦ Before you prepare food or work with food that isn't already packaged.
- ✦ If you are an employer, require employees to use proper sanitation practices for preparing food, and for surface cleaning work areas and public areas like bathrooms.



TRACKING

By collecting and analyzing data that points to the extent of disease in certain areas, we can evaluate transmission risk, intervene and aid communities. Reports from health care providers and labs is essential. If you are a health care provider or laboratory worker, report confirmed and suspected cases of hepatitis A immediately to Nassau County Health Department via phone at 904-875-6100 or send [Practitioner Disease Reporting Form](#) via fax to 904-428-5630.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Nassau County

Nassau County reported mild influenza activity for week 7 (February 9-15). Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Nassau County has decreased over the past few weeks, but is still currently above levels observed at this time in two of the three previous seasons (Fig. 1). Two influenza outbreaks have been reported in Nassau County this flu season.

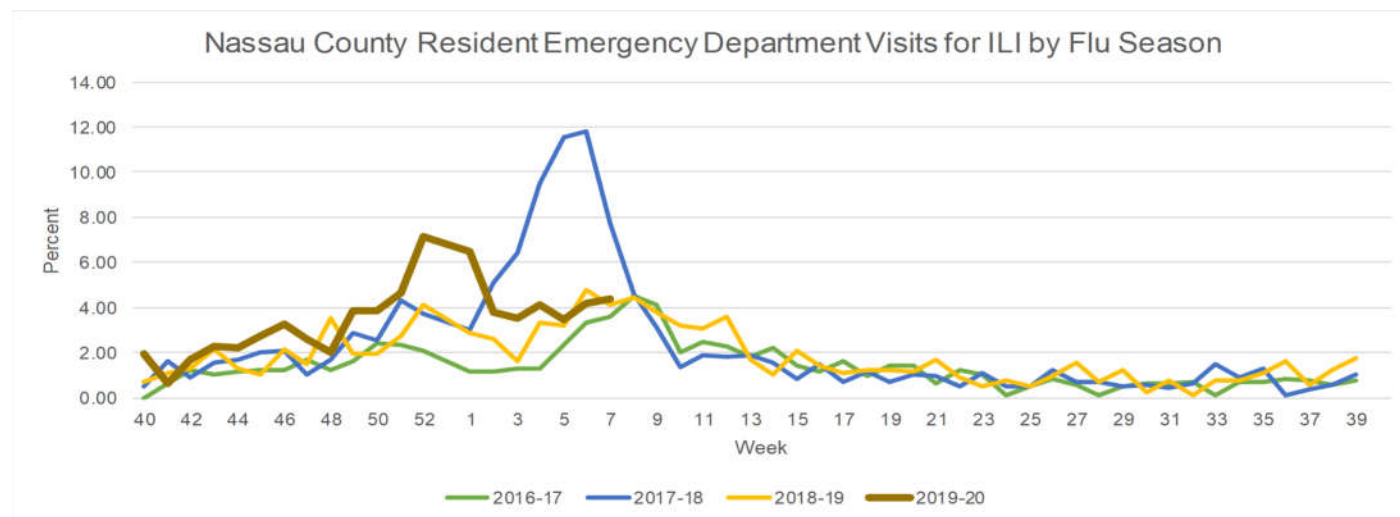


Figure 1. Percent of visits for ILI for Nassau County residents visiting facilities participating in ESSENCE-FL for the current season (weeks 40-7, 2019-2020) and the last three seasons (2018-19, 2017-18, and 2016-17). The ESSENCE-FL ILI syndrome captures visits with chief complaints that include the words “influenza” or “flu,” or chief complaints that include the words “fever” and “cough.”

Florida¹

- ✦ In week seven, influenza and ILI activity in Florida decreased and remained above peak levels observed in the 2016-17 and 2018-19 seasons. Decreases were observed in most regions of the state. Elevated activity is still expected for several more weeks.
- ✦ So far this season, influenza A 2009 (H1N1) has remained the predominant strain over influenza B Victoria lineage as the most common strain. Influenza A 2009 (H1N1) and influenza B Victoria lineage are both included in the 2019-20 influenza vaccines.
- ✦ In week seven, 24 outbreaks were reported (12 influenza and 12 ILI).
- ✦ Two new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Nine influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported so far this season; only one child was vaccinated for the 2019-20 season.
- ✦ Get your flu shot now; it's not too late! Flu shots can take up to two weeks to become fully effective. Influenza vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk for complications (children, adults ≥65 years, pregnant women, and people with underlying medical conditions). Influenza vaccination reduces risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.
- ✦ On January 10, 2020, CDC issued a health advisory reminding clinicians to reiterate vaccination and antiviral treatment recommendations (emergency.cdc.gov/han/HAN00425.asp)
- ✦ In addition to getting vaccinated, the Florida Department of Health recommends you take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of influenza and other respiratory viruses:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water (if soap is not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer).
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - If you do get sick, stay home until fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication).

¹Florida Department of Health. Florida Flu Review Week 7. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/documents/2020-w7-flu-review.pdf>

JANUARY 2020: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Confirmed, Probable, and Suspect Cases of Reportable Diseases of Frequent Occurrence with Report Date 01/01/20 to 01/31/20 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County and Florida

	Nassau County		Florida	
	January 2020	January Average, 2017-2019	January 2020	January Average, 2017-2019
Arsenic Poisoning	0	0.00	2	1.00
Campylobacteriosis	1	2.00	331	337.67
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0.33	32	25.33
Chlamydia (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	19	21.00	8309	7696.67
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	0	0.00	6	5.00
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0.00	1	2.00
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0.00	39	36.67
Cyclosporiasis	0	0.00	1	0.33
Dengue Fever	0	0.00	12	7.00
Ehrlichiosis	0	0.00	0	0.67
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	0	0.00	57	52.33
Giardiasis, Acute	1	0.00	82	80.67
Gonorrhea (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	5	3.33	2797	2620.00
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (Invasive Disease in Children <5 Years Old)	0	0.00	2	3.67
Hepatitis A	2	0.00	156	72.67
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	0.33	54	56.33
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	1.33	404	346.67
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	0	0.00	34	30.67
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	0.00	157	34.67
Hepatitis C, Chronic (Including Perinatal)	7	7.33	1582	1571.33
Lead Poisoning Cases in Children <6 Years Old	0	0.00	88	100.33
Lead Poisoning Cases in Those ≥6 Years Old	1	0.67	56	60.67
Legionellosis	1	0.00	71	47.33
Listeriosis	0	0.00	2	4.00
Lyme Disease	0	0.00	14	5.67
Malaria	0	0.00	6	2.33
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic (Excluding <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>)	0	0.00	13	8.00
Pertussis	0	0.00	45	21.67
Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury, Acute	0	0.00	1	1.33
Rabies, Animal	0	0.33	8	7.33
Rabies, Possible Exposure	3	1.33	336	295.67
Salmonellosis	1	1.67	418	320.33
Shigellosis	0	0.00	72	95.33
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease	1	0.33	139	77.00
Syphilis (Excluding Congenital)	1	0.33	411	573.33
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0.00	4	4.00
Varicella (Chickenpox)	1	0.00	96	61.00
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	0	0.00	17	12.67
Zika Virus Disease and Infection	0	0.00	2	30.00

Table 1. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for reportable diseases and conditions in Nassau County and Florida in January 2020 with three-year period comparison for Nassau County and Florida.

HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS

January 2020 Press Releases & Public Information

For additional information regarding press releases visit the Nassau County Health Department website or Florida Department of Health Online Newsroom at: <http://nassau.floridahealth.gov/> and <http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/>

- ✦ Press Release 01/10/2020: Florida Surgeon General Urges Vaccination As Best Defense Against Rapidly Spreading Flu Virus

KEEP SICK AT HOME

IF YOU CAUGHT THE FLU, NO WORK OR SCHOOL FOR YOU!

You may have the flu if:

- ✦ In addition to coughing or sneezing, you're suffering from a fever, headache, chills, or body aches.
- ✦ It came on suddenly.

The flu is most contagious early in the illness.

- ✦ If you believe you're coming down with the flu, go home and stay home.
- ✦ Keep your hands clean, and coughs and sneezes covered.
- ✦ Consider seeing your doctor.



Prevent the flu— it's in your hands!

- ✦ Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✦ Don't touch or shake hands with people who are sick.
- ✦ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- ✦ Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper elbow, not your hands.
- ✦ Stay home when you're sick, and keep your children home when they're sick.
- ✦ It's not too late to get your flu vaccine. People who have not yet been vaccinated for the 2019-2020 season should do so as soon as possible.

For more information visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/index.html>



Keep Vaccine Between You & Disease