

# EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES  
EDITOR: EMILY CASON, MPH

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

### Background

On January 11, 2020, Chinese health authorities preliminarily identified more than 40 human infections with novel coronavirus in an outbreak of pneumonia under investigation in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese health authorities subsequently posted the full genome of the so-called "novel coronavirus 2019", or "2019-nCoV", in GenBank®, the National Institutes of Health genetic sequence database.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to monitor this outbreak. The majority of cases have been reported in China, but exported cases from Wuhan have been identified multiple other countries, including five in the United States as of January 27th, 2020. Early on, many cases reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-human spread. However, a growing number of cases reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting limited person-to-person spread is occurring, though it is unclear how easily or sustainably the virus is spreading between people.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people, as seen with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

### Person Under Investigation (PUI) Criteria

A PUI is a person with the following characteristics:

1. Fever<sup>1</sup> and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and one or both of the following:
  - History of travel to or from Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, within 14 days before symptom onset; or
  - Close contact<sup>2</sup> with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.

**Nassau County Health Department**  
1620 Nectarine Street  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
Phone: (904) 875-6100  
Fax: (904) 428-5630  
Website: <http://nassau.floridahealth.gov/>

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### 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

### NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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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



2. Fever<sup>1</sup> or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and
- Close contact<sup>2</sup> with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

Patients with lower respiratory illness should also be evaluated for common causes of community acquired pneumonia, guided by clinical presentation and epidemiologic and surveillance information. For these patients, testing for 2019-nCoV and other respiratory pathogens should be done simultaneously. Positive results for another respiratory pathogen (e.g., influenza) should not preclude testing for 2019-nCoV because co-infection may occur.

<sup>1</sup>Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgement should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

<sup>2</sup>Close contact is defined as:

- a) Being within approximately six feet (two meters), or within the room or care area, of a novel coronavirus for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (PPE [e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respiratory, eye protection]); close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case, or
- b) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended PPE

### **Infection Control Considerations**

- ✦ 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 2019-nCoV is receiving health care, it is important that standard, contact, and airborne precautions are used.
- ✦ A PUI may be discharged before 2019-nCoV is ruled out. The decision to discharge a PUI for 2019-nCoV 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 2019-nCoV 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 2019-nCoV 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>.

## **NASSAU HEALTH SUMMIT**

Please join the Nassau County Health Department and the Partnership for a Healthier Nassau at the **2020 Nassau County Health Summit** on Thursday, January 30th at the FSCJ Nassau Red Bean Center (76346 William Burgess Blvd., Yulee). From noon to 1:00pm, network with representatives of organizations excited to share information on their services and hear your thoughts. From 1:00pm to 5:00pm, hear from presenters on efforts underway to make Nassau County the best place to grow up, work, and retire. For more information see the attached flyer or contact Mary von Mohr at 904-557-9133 or [Mary.vonMohr@flhealth.gov](mailto:Mary.vonMohr@flhealth.gov).

## INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

### Nassau County

Nassau County reported mild influenza activity for week 3 (January 12-18). 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.

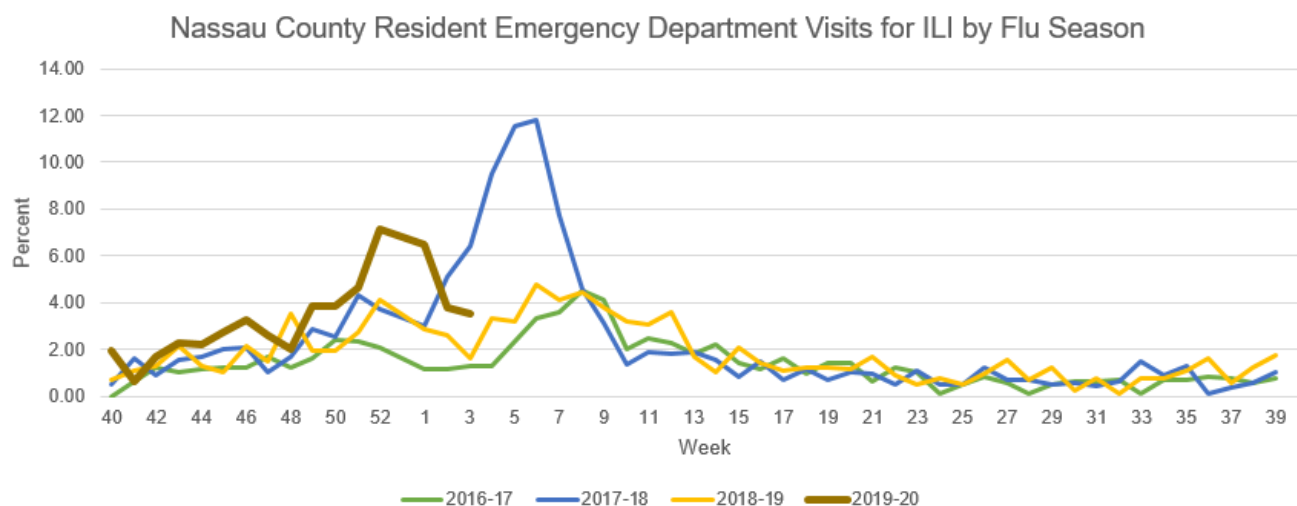


Figure 1. Percent of visits for ILI for Nassau County residents visiting facilities participating in ESSENCE-FL for the current season (weeks 40-3, 2019-2020) and the last three seasons (2018-19, 2017-18, and 2016-17). The ESSENCE-FL ILI syndrome captures visits with chief complaints that include the words “influenza” or “flu,” or chief complaints that include the words “fever” and “cough,” or “fever” and “sore throat.”

### Florida<sup>1</sup>

- ✦ In week three, influenza and ILI activity in Florida remained elevated. Elevated activity is expected to continue for several more weeks.
- ✦ In recent weeks, influenza A 2009 (H1N1) activity has increased notably and overtook influenza B Victoria lineage as the most common strain so far this season. Influenza A 2009 (H1N1) and influenza B Victoria lineage are both included in the 2019-20 influenza vaccines.
- ✦ In week three, 20 outbreaks were reported (eight influenza and 12 ILI).
- ✦ No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported in week three. Four influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Florida so far this season, all in unvaccinated children.

### Guidance and Recommendations<sup>1</sup>

- ✦ 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 that influenza B viruses can cause severe illness in people of all ages, including children, and reiterating vaccination and antiviral treatment recommendations. For more information, please visit: [emergency.cdc.gov/han/HAN00425.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/HAN00425.asp).
- ✦ CDC recommends antiviral treatment be initiated as soon as possible for people with confirmed or suspected influenza who are at higher risk for complications. Treatment should be administered within 48 hours of illness onset.

<sup>1</sup>Florida Department of Health. Florida Flu Review Week 3. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/documents/2020-w3-flu-review.pdf>.

## DECEMBER 2019: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

## Confirmed, Probable, and Suspect Cases of Reportable Diseases of Frequent Occurrence with Report Date 12/01/19 to 12/31/19 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County and Florida

	Nassau County		Florida	
	December 2019	December Average, 2016-2018	December 2019	December Average, 2016-2018
Arsenic Poisoning	0	0.00	1	2.00
Campylobacteriosis	3	0.67	376	351.67
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	0.00	23	35.67
Chlamydia (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	15	21.00	9386	9130.00
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	0	0.00	2	3.00
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0.00	18	4.67
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0.00	56	42.00
Cyclosporiasis	0	0.00	6	2.00
Dengue Fever	0	0.00	37	10.00
Ehrlichiosis	0	0.00	2	2.00
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	0	0.00	56	52.00
Giardiasis, Acute	0	0.33	65	83.33
Gonorrhea (Excluding Neonatal Conjunctivitis)	12	6.67	3416	3017.67
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (Invasive Disease in Children <5 Years Old)	0	0.00	3	5.00
Hepatitis A	0	0.00	241	60.67
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	1.00	94	63.67
Hepatitis B, Chronic	2	0.67	368	393.33
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	1	0.00	58	48.00
Hepatitis C, Acute	1	0.00	139	26.33
Hepatitis C, Chronic (Including Perinatal)	4	6.67	1559	2002.67
Lead Poisoning Cases in Children <6 Years Old	0	0.33	63	73.00
Lead Poisoning Cases in Those ≥6 Years Old	0	0.33	76	59.00
Legionellosis	0	0.00	75	70.67
Listeriosis	0	0.00	5	6.00
Lyme Disease	1	0.33	26	27.33
Malaria	0	0.00	9	4.33
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic (Excluding <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> )	0	0.00	15	12.00
Pertussis	0	0.33	38	26.67
Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury, Acute	0	0.00	7	3.00
Rabies, Animal	0	0.67	10	5.00
Rabies, Possible Exposure	1	1.67	447	355.67
Salmonellosis	2	4.00	549	647.00
Shigellosis	0	0.00	113	115.33
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Resistant	0	0.00	28	26.00
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> Invasive Disease, Drug-Susceptible	0	0.00	97	37.33
Syphilis (Excluding Congenital)	0	0.33	400	734.33
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0.00	12	10.00
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0.00	77	73.33
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	0	0.00	18	27.67
Zika Virus Disease and Infection	0	0.00	11	48.00

Table 1. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for reportable diseases and conditions in Nassau County and Florida in December 2019 with three-year period comparison for Nassau County and Florida.

**HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS****December 2019 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 12/02/2019: Florida Department of Health in Nassau County Encourages Healthy Eating Over the Holidays 2019

**What You Should Know about Rabies**

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can be prevented but not cured. The virus attacks the brain of warm-blooded animals, including people.

**How is rabies spread?**

When an animal is sick with rabies, the virus is shed in the saliva and can be passed to another animal or a person, usually through a bite. Transmission may also occur if the saliva or the animal's nervous tissue enters open wounds, the mouth, nose, or eyes of another animal or person.

**What do rabid animals look like?**

Animals with rabies may show strange behavior—they can be aggressive, attacking for no apparent reason, or act very tame (especially wild animals). They may not be able to eat, drink or swallow. They may drool because they have difficulty swallowing. They may stagger or become paralyzed. Rabies will kill most animals.

**Which animals have been reported with rabies in Florida?**

Rabid raccoons have been reported most frequently, followed by bats and foxes. Since the 1980s, rabid cats were reported more frequently than rabid dogs. Rabid bobcats, skunks, otters, horses, cattle and ferrets have also been reported.

**What should I do if an animal bites me?**

Immediately scrub the wound with lots of soap and running water for five to ten minutes. Try to get a complete description of the animal and determine where it is so that it can be picked up by animal control staff for quarantine or rabies testing. Go to your family doctor or the nearest emergency room. Call the Nassau County Health Department at 904-875-6100 or your local animal control agency (Nassau Humane Society in the Fernandina Beach city limits, 904-321-1647, or Nassau County Animal Services in the rest of the county, 904-530-6150) with the animal's description and location. The animal will either be quarantined for ten days (if it is a dog, cat or ferret) or be tested for rabies. If you kill the animal, be careful not to damage the head, and avoid further contact with the animal even when it is dead.

**What should I do to protect myself, my family, and my pets from rabies?**

Have your veterinarian vaccinate all of your dogs, cats, ferrets and horses against rabies, and make sure you follow your veterinarian's instructions for revaccination. Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Never feed wild or stray animals and avoid attracting them with outdoor food sources (like uncovered trash). Feed your pets indoors. Do not allow your pets to run free. Follow leash laws by keeping pets and livestock secured on your property. Support animal control in your community. If your animal is attacked by a wild, stray or unvaccinated animal, DO NOT examine your pet for injuries without wearing gloves. DO wash your pet with soap and water to remove saliva from the attacking animal. DO NOT let your animal come in contact with other animals or people until the situation can be handled by animal control or health department staff. Bat proof your house, but remember it is illegal to exclude or remove bats during maternity season, which is April 16 through August 14. For more information on bat exclusion, visit <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mammals/land/bats/information/buildings/exclude/>.

For more information on rabies, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>.

