

Coronavirus (COVID-19) February 27, 2020

The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging governments to take every precaution to continue their containment procedures to limit the COVID-19 coronavirus, but there are new cases everyday.

COVID-19 is an international public health emergency. COVID-19 has already exceeded the reported numbers of infections and deaths for the 2013 SARS outbreak and in a much shorter span of time.

COVID-19 is a potentially deadly and highly contagious virus that can be transmitted through human-tohuman contact. In the most recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), health officials stated that Americans should be making plans now to prepare for a wider number of infections across the country.

Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said, "It's not so much a question of if this will happen anymore, but rather more a question of exactly when this will happen and how many people in this country will have a severe illness?" Staying aware of the current situation, actively working to maintain your overall health and wellbeing, and preparing for a potential outbreak in your local community that may impact your life and work are the best steps you can take right now.

As always, follow the guidelines and information provided by the agencies responsible for monitoring and responding to concerns of this nature. Trusting your family's health and wellbeing to untrusted sources of information may unnecessarily aggravate concerns or worry younger family members who do not have a full understanding of the situation.

Below are links to current information:

- 1. CDC Coronavirus Background and Updates
- 2. CDC Live Updates & News
- 3.<u>CNN Coronavirus News & Updates</u>
- 4. WHO Coronavirus International Concern Announcement
- 5. WHO Coronavirus News & Information

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