NYC Health

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update for NYC Businesses

There is an outbreak of respiratory disease (which affects breathing) caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. Infections with this novel coronavirus (COVID-19) have been reported in several countries, including the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NYC Health Department are closely monitoring this outbreak.

Novel Coronavirus

- Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause mild illnesses like a cold, to more serious illnesses like pneumonia.
- The virus is known to spread from person to person, but it is currently unclear how easily the virus spreads.
- Commonly reported symptoms for COVID-19 include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.

What businesses need to do now to prepare:
At this time, the risk to New Yorkers remains low. Encourage your staff to go about their daily lives but be mindful of taking certain precautions.

- Create or update your outbreak response plan.
- Stay informed, listen to public health messages from reliable sources like the NYC Health Department or the CDC, and implement prevention practices to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses such as covering your coughs and sneezes, washing hands regularly and avoiding touching your face.
- **The NYC Health Department does not currently recommend avoiding or canceling public gatherings, meetings or events.**

For more detailed information, visit **nyc.gov/coronavirus** and look for **Business and Employer Guidance.**

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