COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
As of March 6, 2020

What is the coronavirus?
The Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is an acute viral illness that spreads through respiratory transmission and can be severe in a portion of those affected.

Have there been any cases reported in Florida and if so, how many cases?
As of March 6, 2020, there are confirmed cases in Florida. Please visit the Florida Department of Health website for details: www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/

What are the symptoms?
Symptoms include mild to severe respiratory illness, as well as cough, fever, and difficulty breathing.

Who is at risk?
According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), ‘for most of the American public, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low’.

Those with elevated risk of exposure include:
• People in communities where the virus that causes COVID-19 have been reported. However, still relatively low risk of exposure.
• Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19.
• Close contacts of persons with COVID-19.
• Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring.

How can I protect myself?
Currently, we are following the recommendations and guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick
• Stay home if you are sick
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
• Cover your mouth with a tissue if you cough or sneeze and throwing away the tissue immediately after
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing, before eating, and after eating
• If soap and water are not available, wash your hands with hand sanitizer with 60% - 95% alcohol
• Routinely cleaning items and surfaces that are frequently touched with a household cleaning spray or wipe
What do I do if I think I (or a family member has been exposed)?

According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC):

• Contact your county health department (CHD).
• Consult a health-care provider as soon as possible. Call ahead and tell them before you visit that you think you may have COVID-19 so they can take precautions to prevent exposing other people.
• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
• If you have a surgical mask, wear it during close contact with other people. A mask can reduce the number of droplets coughed into the air.
• Remember, very few respiratory infections will be COVID-19.
• Please review your signs, symptoms and travel history thoroughly with your physician.

Is there a vaccine or treatment?

Currently, there is no vaccine or specific treatment.

Should I be tested?

According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC):

“If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after travel from China, you should call ahead to a healthcare provider and mention your recent travel or close contact. If you have had close contact with someone showing these symptoms who has recently traveled from this area, you should call ahead to a healthcare provider and mention your recent travel or close contact. Your healthcare provider will work with the Florida Department of Health and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.”

Where can I get more information?
