



PRESS RELEASE

20th February 2020

Update from Ministry of Health Regarding COVID-19

The Ministry of Health wishes to advise the public that there are still no cases of COVID-19 in Bermuda.

Additionally, Ports of Entry screening has not identified any travelers with a risk history in the past 5 days. Efforts are being made to heighten the level of screening of travelers at the airport and to remind travelers to identify themselves at the Customs arrival window if they have traveled to mainland China or any area where there is person-to-person transmission of the virus.

"Prior Ports of Entry screening resulted in a cumulative total of 25 individuals being self-quarantined and monitored," said Chief Medical Officer Dr. Cheryl Peek-Ball. "These persons have all completed the recommended monitoring period of 14 days post possible exposure for COVID-19. We currently now have no individuals undergoing current active monitoring."

Residents should take note that travel to China or areas with active person-person transmission of the virus is not advised. Upon return from such travel, residents should be prepared to be self-quarantined to their homes and monitored for 14 days.

"If you become ill following travel to a COVID-19 risk area (mainland China and some neighboring countries), please call ahead to your doctor's office for advice and inform them of your travel risk before going into any healthcare setting," said Dr. Peek-Ball. "The best protection from this disease and all respiratory illnesses is good hand hygiene. When ill, stay away from others - do not attend work or school - and, again, seek medical advice by phone in advance of going to a healthcare setting. Calling ahead is critical before seeking care in both the Emergency Department and other healthcare facilities."

The Ministry of Health will issue a weekly press statement on Thursdays and will continue to update its website regularly. The Government website should be the trusted source of local information regarding the coronavirus: www.gov.bm/health-data-and-monitoring. Likewise, Government's Facebook page, Twitter page and Treefrog App will be updated immediately as new developments occur.