



Statement from Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On March 5, 2020, Maryland's Public Health Laboratory in Baltimore confirmed the first three positive cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Maryland. The patients are in Montgomery County. They contracted the virus while traveling overseas and are in good condition. There are no positive COVID-19 cases in Prince George's County.

Prince George's County health officials, along with emergency management officials, are continuing to work closely with state and federal health officials to respond and plan should the situation change.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide the most up-to-date information available so that residents can make decisions based on facts. While the potential risk of illness to the general public is still low, Prince George's County partners, including government, public schools, hospitals and other organizations are continually monitoring the situation and will provide updated information if the situation should change.

If you have recently traveled to any geographic area of concern (China, South Korea, Italy, Japan or Iran) or were in contact with someone with COVID-19, and you become sick with fever, cough or have difficulty breathing, seek medical care right away. Follow these steps:

- Call your doctor or emergency room before you go
- Tell them about recent travel and close contacts (such as people in your household)
- Wear a mask, if one is available

A physician or health care provider will assess your symptoms and determine if diagnostic testing for the COVID-19 virus is appropriate. If your health care provider suspects COVID-19, they will coordinate testing with the local and state health departments. If you have additional questions, call 3-1-1 and you will receive assistance.

Please continue to keep yourselves and your communities informed about COVID-19 and the latest updates. We also continue to encourage Prince Georgians practice the same cold and flu season preventive measures to keep everyone safe and healthy.