Ohio Wildlife Center's Coronavirus Preparedness Plan

POSITION STATEMENT
Ohio Wildlife Center is continually monitoring the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which originated in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019, causes flu- or pneumonia-like illness with symptoms including fever, cough and difficulty breathing. We are observing and checking the progress of 2019-nCoV and following all measures, policies and protocols in place from the CDC and local public health officials. We have implemented guidelines to the best of our abilities to keep people and animals safe. Please take normal precautions for personal health, as anyone would to prevent the flu. Thorough handwashing (at least 20 seconds) with soap and water is always your best defense. When coughing or sneezing, do so into your sleeve or arm – not onto your hands.

Q: What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus?
A: 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

Q: What is the source of 2019 Novel Coronavirus?
A: Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market suggesting the virus likely emerged from an animal source. Currently, new cases are not associated with these markets which are now closed. New infections seem to be from close contact with previously infected individuals, much like a common cold is spread.

Q: What are the best resources for the latest information on the Novel Coronavirus?
A: New details continue to emerge, so it is important to remain informed. Resources for useful, fact-based information include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Q: Is there a vaccine?
A: Not yet, but people are working on one.

Q: What are the treatments?
A: According to health authorities, patients receive supportive care to relieve symptoms and prevent complications while they recover. There is no specific antiviral therapy against this disease.
Q: Am I at risk for novel coronavirus from a package or products shipping from China?
A: There is still a lot that is unknown. In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures. Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets.

Q: What can I do to avoid getting sick?
A: Thorough handwashing (at least 20 seconds) with soap and water is always your best defense. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. To avoid spreading disease, stay home if you have any flu-like symptoms. When coughing or sneezing, do so into your sleeve or arm – not onto your hands.

Q: What about animals?
A: There are many coronaviruses affecting humans and animals, but these are different and not responsible for this disease. Although the virus may have originated from an animal source, in its current form it is a human infection with no evidence that it can be transmitted to animals.

Q: Should I be concerned about pets or other animals and 2019-nCoV?
A: While this virus seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading person-to-person. The CDC recommends that people traveling to China avoid animals both live and dead, but there is no reason to think that any animals or pets in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus.

This situation has been evolving rapidly. For the most up to date and reliable information please refer to the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Current situational updates can be found at the following links:
- WHO Daily Situation Reports
- CDC Situation Summary