Frequently Asked Questions About the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

What is novel coronavirus?
The coronavirus is a newly identified virus that has developed into a pandemic around the world.

How does the COVID-19 spread?
COVID-19 spreads primary between people who are in close contact with one another. The virus is transmitted through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

What are the symptoms and complications of COVID-19?
Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

What should I do if I am developing the symptoms associated with COVID-19?
Call your healthcare provider or the MA Public Health Department 211 X26

Is there a treatment?
There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

Should I be tested for COVID-19?
The MA Department of Public Health has establishing the protocol of whom should be tested and how the testing will be conducted. Call your health Care provider or call the MA Public Health Department 211 X26

Is there a vaccine?
There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

How can I protect myself?
Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public space or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces for your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks. **Staying home will reduce your risk of becoming sick.**

Social Distancing
It is important that people maintain a Social Distance of 6 feet between you and other individuals.

How can I protect others?
Stay home if you are sick. Use the inside of your elbow to cover coughs and sneezes. Wear a mask if you are sick and are around other people. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks.

Should I wear a mask?
If you are not sick you do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick and not able to wear a mask.

What should I do if someone in my household is quarantined?
If someone in your household has been quarantined at home, all contacts including household members and caregivers should monitor their own health and call their healthcare provider if develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath).

Should I be concerned about pets?
To date, the CDC has not received any reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19.