

Please share the following message about coronavirus from Dr. Stephen Thomas with your team.

We are deep into respiratory infection season with numerous patients presenting to our clinics and emergency departments with RSV, influenza, and other bacterial and viral respiratory infections.

Also of concern is the growing global public health issue related to a novel coronavirus which emerged from Wuhan City, China, and is causing significant respiratory illness. Hundreds of people have become ill, many seriously, and some have died. The virus appears to be transmissible from person to person and new cases have been identified in Thailand, Japan, Korea, and the U.S. (Washington state).

The traveler and international student population in Syracuse increases the risk that an individual infected with the novel coronavirus could access care from one of our facilities.

Upstate is following CDC and New York State Department of Health screening guidelines.

It is extremely important our front line staff who have first contact with our patients remember to take a detailed travel history from our patients, especially those with fever and respiratory symptoms.

Anyone identified as being less than 14 days from travel to Asia and ill should prompt an immediate notification to a medical provider and the patient should be isolated and wearing a mask.

Anyone engaging with the patient should use appropriate personal protective equipment to include a N95 mask and eye protection.

As always, people should wash their hands before and after entering the patient's room, regardless of the reason for entry.

Communicable disease prevention strategies should be strictly followed, including: frequent hand washing; covering coughs; avoiding the touching of eyes, nose, mouth; and not attending school or work if fever and respiratory symptoms are present.

Infection Prevention should be contacted immediately. They will initiate standard hospital procedures designed for these types of scenarios.

Early identification of potential cases is key to patient and public safety.

For more information on coronavirus, visit Emergency Management's Trending Issues website: <https://www.upstate.edu/emergencymgt/trending/mers.php>

To contact Infection Prevention, call [315-464-5258](tel:315-464-5258) (Downtown) or [315-492-5907](tel:315-492-5907) (Community). The Infection Prevention website is available at the following link: <https://www.upstate.edu/infectioncontrol/>

To contact Employee/Student Health, call [315-464-4260](tel:315-464-4260) or send a message through the Employee/Student Health portal at <https://eshportal.upstate.edu/> to attention "Nurse 1."

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