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## **Riverside County health officials monitoring spread of coronavirus; report no local cases**

Riverside County health officials are working with state and federal representatives to monitor the cases of novel coronavirus (nCoV) from the Wuhan, China outbreak. Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser said there have been no confirmed cases in Riverside County.

Health officials recently announced the illness, which originated in Wuhan, China, has spread to Southern California with one case each in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

“It’s understandable Riverside County residents would be anxious with all the media reports about the growing number of cases, but I want the community to know everything is being done to prevent the illness from spreading here,” said Kaiser. “At this time we have no evidence these individuals had contacts in Riverside County during the period they would be contagious.”

Kaiser said the incubation period for nCoV and other related coronaviruses seems to be around two weeks. Even though travel from Wuhan has been closed by the Chinese government, it seems likely there will be additional cases detected in California.

“As nCoV has substantial similarities to the SARS virus from 2002, which is also a coronavirus, we are treating it with similar urgency,” Kaiser said.

Kaiser said the Department of Public Health will be coordinating with schools, hospitals and the emergency medical system to ensure a uniform and fast response if a case is identified in Riverside County.

“We will be ready if we get one,” he said.

*Media advisory: Dr. Kaiser is scheduled to update the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on the activities surrounding coronavirus at its meeting Jan. 28.*