The emergence and rapid spread of a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), originating in Wuhan, China, represents a worldwide public health concern. As of Sunday afternoon, January 26, over 2000 cases have been reported in Wuhan, in other parts of China and in several other countries, including at least five cases in the United States. 2019-nCoV is a relative of a few viruses that cause cold/flu-like illness, as well as viruses that cause more severe SARS and MERS. 2019-nCoV is now known to be transmitted person-to-person within the 10-14-day incubation period, prior to when symptoms appear. While most 2019-nCoV-infected individuals have experienced relatively mild or moderate cold/flu-like symptoms, deaths have been reported in around 4% of cases; the vast majority of lethal cases have involved elderly or health-compromised individuals.

The handful of individuals diagnosed with 2019-nCoV in the U.S. appear to have been infected in the Wuhan area prior to traveling back to the U.S. Therefore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control have begun identifying and monitoring individuals who have traveled to and from Wuhan. If you, a partner or family member with whom you live have traveled to and from Wuhan within the past few weeks, please inform your healthcare provider or local public health department. They will provide information on 2019-nCoV-associated symptoms and recommendations for actions, if any, to take.

If you have any questions about healthcare benefits, locations of public health facilities, or other relevant issues, please contact Human Resources (HR@danforthcenter.org or x1033).