As you may be aware, there is currently an international outbreak of coronavirus. The outbreak began in China and has spread to other countries. There has yet to be a major outbreak in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating just over 100 potential cases as of Tuesday. Only five of those cases have been confirmed as coronavirus. Many of the cases are with patients who recently returned to the United States from China.

**Symptoms**

For confirmed infections, reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with few symptoms to people being severely ill. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long two weeks after exposure.

Tuesday, the first two potential cases in Ohio were reported. The CDC is investigating whether two Miami University students who recently returned from China are infected.

**What Columbus State is doing**

Columbus State will continue to monitor guidance from local, state, and federal public health officials. There is no need at this time to change any routine activities or behaviors.

**What you can do**

In general, practicing routine hygiene etiquette is the best way to prevent the spread of infection:

- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough
- Wash your hands or use alcohol hand rub after coughing or sneezing
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you are ill, keep a safe distance from others to reduce the risk of transmitting germs
- If you are seriously ill, seek medical advice from a doctor or emergency department

**More information**

[Link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov)

[Read more here](https://www.webmd.com) from WebMD about coronavirus.