



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Oxiris Barbot, MD

Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

(347) 396-4177

## RESULTS FROM FIRST PATIENT UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COME BACK NEGATIVE

*Results from two patients are still pending with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The timing of the test results depends on the CDC's capacity for testing in Atlanta*

**February 4, 2020** – The Health Department today announced that the test results for the first patient under investigation for the 2019 novel [coronavirus](#) came back negative, meaning the person, who is currently hospitalized at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue, does not have the novel coronavirus. Two test results from patients under investigation are still pending. “We’re relieved to hear that the person in question does not have the novel coronavirus,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “I can’t say this enough: if you have the symptoms and recent travel history, please see your health provider immediately.”

“The first person who met the criteria to have samples sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was found not to have the 2019 novel coronavirus,” said **Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot**. “The response and care the patient received reflects how well the systems we have in place are working. We want to thank everyone for all they did, and we will keep New Yorkers informed as the situation develops.”

For those who feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and traveled to Hubei province China—or been in contact with a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus— within 14 days of symptom onset, CDC recommends:

- Seek medical care right away. Before going to a doctor’s office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about recent travel and symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

For more information about the coronavirus, visit the Health Department website at [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health).

###

**#005-20**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Patrick Gallahue / Michael Lanza, (347) 396-4177

[PressOffice@health.nyc.gov](mailto:PressOffice@health.nyc.gov)