FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Deb Strahler
512-248-7629

THREAT FROM CORONAVIRUS REMAINS LOW, NO CONFIRMED TEXAS CASES AT THIS TIME

In response to national news, there has been increased community concern regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). While there have been 11 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in the United States, there are currently no confirmed cases in Texas.

Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving situation in coordination with the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local and regional public health and healthcare agencies.

Health officials emphasize that Asian/Pacific Islander individuals are not at greater risk of carrying the coronavirus than any other individual. WCCHD continues to conduct disease surveillance and investigation activities, provide guidance to the health care community and disseminate consistent public health messaging.

“You are more likely to become sick with the flu than to be diagnosed with coronavirus,” said Dr. Lori Palazzo, WCCHD Medical Director and Williamson County Health Authority. “There have been more than 10,000 deaths due to the flu nationwide since October 2019. The best defense against the flu is getting a flu shot.”

The overall risk of 2019-nCoV in the United States to the general public is low. To help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including flu and 2019-nCoV, follow these measures:

• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
• Stay home when you are sick.
• Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover it, then throw the tissue in the trash.
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For more information on coronavirus, visit CDC.gov/Coronavirus or DSHS.Texas.gov/Coronavirus.

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