Atlanta, Georgia – CDC recognizes that the outbreak caused by a new (or novel) coronavirus, called 2019 novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV, in Wuhan, China has caused some public concern. CDC is taking many different measures to protect the health of the people in the United States. Public health entry screening is part of a layered approach to limiting the spread of disease. Every day, CDC works with other federal agencies, the travel industry, state and local health departments, and international public health organizations to identify sick travelers arriving in the United States.

CDC staff are prepared to respond to any reports of sick travelers, and the U.S. public health system is ready to respond and assist. CDC is increasing the number staff at key US ports of entry and conducting drills and enhanced trainings in coordination with strategic partners such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Emergency Medical Systems (EMS).

On Thursday, January 23, 2020, CDC staff from the Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch trained additional EMS staff at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. At some ports of entry, EMS will support CDC by conducting medical evaluations of travelers arriving from affected areas to ensure they are in good health and do not have symptoms that could represent a health risk. CDC staff briefed CBP officers and conducted drills at passport control and other key areas at the airport.

This is one example of how CDC works closely with partners to ensure they are ready to help CDC detect illness in travelers arriving from areas with outbreaks that could spread to US communities. The following footage was captured during the drills and training at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and reflect close partnership between agencies. For more information contact CDC Media at (404) 639-3286:

Shots:

1. Traveler arriving at CBP passport control and interacting with CBP officer
2. CBP officer asks about itinerary and specific public health questions
3. CBP officer invites traveler coughing to wear a face mask
4. CBP officer referring traveler to the screening area screening
5. CBP passport control officer calling for support escorting traveler to the screening area
6. CBP officer escorting traveler to the screening area
7. CBP officer handing traveler to CDC Quarantine Public Health Officer
8. EMS staff handing CDC’s Traveler Health Declaration (THD) form to Traveler
9. Traveler completing THD with EMS staff
10. EMS staff checking traveler’s temperature with a hand-held non-contact infrared thermometer (NCIT)
11. EMS staff assisting traveler to compete THD
12. EMS staff handing nCoV-specific English/Mandarin health information card (Traveler Health Alert Notice or T-HAN)
13. CDC Quarantine Public Health Officer (QPHO) handing T-HAN to traveler
14. Traveler receiving health information card and continuing their way.
15. Ill traveler escorted to additional public health assessment area by QPHO
16. Ill traveler entering additional public health assessment area with QPHO
17. Traveler waiting in isolation room
18. QPHO using a muster (situational briefing), T-HAN and CDC’s RING Card job aids to brief CBP officers. The RING Card tells officers how to Recognize, Isolate, Notify CDC, and Give support when responding to ill travelers.
19. QPHO handing T-HAN to CBP officers
20. Travelers arriving at ATL from Shanghai
21. Travelers arriving from Shanghai wearing face masks
22. Room shot aerial view of the passport control area.
23. Filming foreign visitors sign in the passport control area.
24. Filming CDC’s electronic message (“TravAlert”) for the outbreak in Wuhan as travelers are starting to go into the line to the passport control area.