A novel coronavirus and disease (COVID-19) emerged in late 2019 and has spread to 90,000 persons in over 70 countries. The city of San Francisco, including all of its medical centers, are making a variety of preparations for screening and care of patients should they test positive. We do not currently know if HIV on its own can increase a person’s risk of getting COVID-19, or if HIV raises the risk of having more severe disease. It does appear that pre-existing heart or lung disease can increase the risk of more severe disease.

The most important things people can do to lower risk at this time are (1) avoid crowded public spaces where contact with others is likely, (2) try to cough or sneeze into an arm/elbow (3) wash one’s hands with soap and water frequently, and avoid touching one’s face, (4) avoid handshakes and other contacts with other persons where possible. (5) Remember that standard influenza is still circulating and it is not too late to get an influenza vaccine if you have not yet gotten one this season.

If you suspect that you might have the flu you should contact your primary provider for instructions on where and when your symptoms can be evaluated, so that you can be offered treatment for flu and testing for flu and coronavirus if clinically indicated.

For Global Daily Updates:  https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Local Resources:
- UCSF Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention COVID-19 webpage: https://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/ucsf-health-covid-19-resources

If you have questions about Getting to Zero San Francisco, please contact Courtney Liebi at courtney.liebi@ucsf.edu or 628.217.7417.