



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Update and Interim Guidance on 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Since December of 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to closely monitor an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in hundreds of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan, with additional cases being identified in a growing number of countries internationally. Today, CDC has confirmed a second infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States. The case identified in Illinois recently returned from Wuhan, China and is currently hospitalized in stable condition. The first confirmed 2019-nCoV case was identified in the state of Washington, who returned to the United States from Wuhan. At this time, there are no confirmed 2019-nCoV cases in California.

Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China, reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting person-to-person spread is occurring. At this time, it is unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

The situation with regard to 2019-nCoV is still unclear. While severe illness, including illness resulting in a number of deaths has been reported in China, other patients have had milder illness and been discharged.

While CDC considers this is a serious public health concern, based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is considered low at this time. In addition, more cases are likely to be identified in the coming days, including possibly more cases in the United States.

Recommendation for Healthcare Providers

At the time, limited information is available to characterize the spectrum of clinical illness associated with 2019-nCoV. Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. No vaccine or specific treatment for 2019-nCoV is available and care is supportive.

Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV
Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Wuhan City, China:

- 1) Fever (38°C or 100.4°F) AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
 - and history of travel from Wuhan City, China, in the last 14 days before symptom onset
 - or close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.

- 2) Fever (38°C or 100.4°F) OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
 - and close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient in the last 14 days before symptom onset.

The above criteria and additional interim guidance for healthcare professional is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>.

Recommendations for Reporting, testing, and Specimen Collection

Healthcare providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their healthcare facility and the local health department in the event of a PUI for 2019-nCoV. Notification to the local health department can be done by calling (442) 265-1464 or by email at phepireport@co.imperial.ca.us.

At this time, diagnostic testing for 2019-nCoV can be conducted only at CDC. Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen collection and delivery to the local public health laboratory. If a PUI tests positive for other respiratory pathogen, after clinical evaluation and consultation with public health, they may no longer be consider a PUI.

To increase the likelihood of detecting 2019-nCoV infection, recommendations are to collect three specimen types – lower respiratory, upper respiratory, and serum

specimens. Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a PUI is identified regardless of time of symptom onset. Additional guidance for collection, handling, and testing of clinical specimens is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-laboratories.html>.

Infection Control Practice

The CDC currently recommends PUI for 2019-nCoV be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in an airborne infection isolation room if available, or a private room with the door closed. Healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard, contact, and airborne precautions in addition to eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield). Additional infection control practice resources can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html>.

The All Facilities Letter (AFL) contains the latest CDC information on the 2019-nCoV, the letter can be viewed at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-09.pdf>.

For updates on 2019-nCoV go to CDC's 2019-nCoV webpage at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this advisory,
please call (442) 265-1464.

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