



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

January 30, 2020

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Update on 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed today that 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has spread between two people in the United States, representing the first instance of person-to-person transmission with this new virus in this country. This case brings the total number of confirmed 2019-nCoV cases to six in the United States, with the previous five cases associated with travel to the city of Wuhan in Hubei, China. The latest 2019-nCoV case-patient is the spouse of a Chicago case previously confirmed on January 21, 2020.

Limited person-to-person spread with 2019-nCoV has been reported among close contacts of infected travelers in other countries where imported cases from China have been detected. At this time, it is still unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. It is possible that more cases will be identified in the U.S. However, based on current information, the immediate health risk to the American public remains low.

Because the situation with the novel coronavirus outbreak is rapidly evolving, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is currently recommending that travel history of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) be expanded to include all of mainland China. At this time, there are no modifications to the clinical portion of the case definition.

Health-care providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their health-care facility and the local health department in the event of a suspected PUI for 2019-nCoV. Contact the Imperial County Public Health Department by calling the communicable disease reporting line at (442) 265-1464 or the duty officer after work hours, on weekends and on holidays.

Health-care Providers

At this time, CDC has not expanded the travel history for PUIs. However, based on CDPH recommendation, the following criteria should be used to evaluate PUI in association with the 2019-nCoV outbreak.

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 in Hubei, China:

- 1) Fever (38°C or 100.4°F) AND/OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
 - and history of travel from **all mainland China**, in the last 14 days before symptom onset
 - or close contact in the last 14 days with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV or confirmed to have novel coronavirus
 - or another epi risk factor, such as having health-care contact.

Additional interim guidance for health-care professional is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>

Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection

Health-care providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their health-care facility and the local health department in the event of a PUI for 2019-nCoV. Notify the Public Health Department by calling the communicable disease reporting line at (442) 265-1464 or the duty officer after hours, on weekends or on holidays.

Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a PUI is identified regardless of time of symptom onset. Note that the Multiplex PCR (Fil-array) only detects coronavirus 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1. Therefore, a negative test result for coronavirus by Multiplex PCR does not rule out infection by 2019-nCoV, and further testing is required.

To increase the likelihood of detecting 2019-nCoV infection, recommendations are to collect three specimen types – lower respiratory, upper respiratory, and serum. Additional guidance for collection and handling of clinical specimens is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-laboratories.html>

At this time, diagnostic testing for 2019-nCoV can be conducted only at CDC. Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen collection or delivery of

specimens to the local public health laboratory.

Infection Control Practice

The CDC currently recommends that PUIs for 2019-nCoV 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. Health-care 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. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-09.pdf>

For updates 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,
call (442) 265-1464.

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