

Health Advisory: Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China

Minnesota Department of Health, Wed Jan 22 09:00 CST 2020

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to infection preventionists, infectious disease doctors, emergency department staff, hospitalists and all other health care providers who might see patients with acute respiratory symptoms.

Health care providers:

- Continue to routinely ask patients about international travel, including specific information about the country, city and dates of travel.
- Have heightened vigilance for patients suspected of having 2019-nCoV infection based on the PUI criteria outlined below.
- Contact MDH at 651-201-5414 (1-877-676-5414) for consultation and arrangement for testing when seeing a PUI.
- Visit the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) for additional information on 2019-nCoV and testing criteria.

CDC continues to monitor an outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. There is much unknown about the transmissibility, severity, and other features associated with 2019-nCoV; therefore recommendations may change as more information is obtained.

A pneumonia outbreak of unknown etiology was reported on December 31, 2019, from Wuhan, China. Chinese health authorities have confirmed more than 300 infections (including at least 6 deaths) with a novel coronavirus as the cause of the outbreak. Cases have also occurred in other countries including a case in the U.S. in Washington. Preliminary data suggest that older individuals and those with comorbidities may be at higher risk for severe disease.

Initially, many patients had epidemiological links to a large seafood and animal market in Wuhan, which was closed on January 1, 2020. Chinese health authorities have reported person-to-person transmission of 2019-nCoV to close contacts and healthcare providers. CDC has issued a level 2 travel alert (practice enhanced precautions; see wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/novel-coronavirus-china).

Travelers arriving in the U.S. from Wuhan, are screened for symptoms compatible with 2019-nCoV. Travelers with symptoms will be referred for evaluation. Asymptomatic travelers receive a card with information about what to do if symptoms appear (if they develop fever, cough or difficulty breathing they should call ahead to a doctor or emergency room, and let them know that they have been in Wuhan). JFK, SFO and LAX airports began screening on January 17 and

ATL and ORD airports will be added this week. All travel from Wuhan to the U.S. will funnel through these 5 airports beginning this week.

Recommendations

No vaccine or specific treatment for 2019-nCoV infection is available; care is supportive. The criteria for a 2019-nCoV patient under investigation (PUI) are subject to change.

1. Criteria to Guide Evaluation of PUI for 2019-nCoV

- Fever AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and in the last 14 days before symptom onset had one of the following exposures:
 - History of travel from Wuhan, China

OR

- Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.

OR

- Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and in the last 14 days before symptom onset:
 - Close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

2. Patients who meet the PUI criteria should be reported immediately to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) at 651-201-5414 and your facility's infection prevention personnel.

3. Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations

PUIs for 2019-nCoV should be asked to wear a surgical mask and evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally in an airborne infection isolation room if available. Healthcare personnel should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).

4. PUIs for 2019-nCoV do not require admission to a biocontainment unit. Unless clinically indicated, PUIs do not require hospital admission. Recommendations for home care are available on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>).

Additional Infection Control Practices Resources

- Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings
(<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html>)

See CDC's Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus ([/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html)).

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WUHAN, CHINA

For More Information

More information is available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html or by calling MDH at 651-201-5414.

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](#)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.