

March 11, 2020

COVID-2019: Updated CDC Guidance, Specimen Collection and COCA call

Actions Requested

- **Understand recent changes** to the CDC Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Healthcare Settings available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html
 - **For care of patients with known or suspected COVID-19, facemasks are an acceptable alternative** when the supply chain of respirators cannot meet local demand. Eye protection, gown and gloves continue to be recommended.
 - **When collecting diagnostic respiratory specimens (e.g. nasopharyngeal swab) from a possible COVID-19 patient:**
 - Healthcare personnel in the room should wear an N-95 or higher-level respirator (**or facemask if a respirator is not available**), eye protection, gloves and a gown.
 - Specimen collection should be performed in a **normal exam room with the door closed**.
 - Clean and disinfect procedure room surfaces promptly following environmental infection control recommendations.
- **Understand recent changes** to the CDC Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus (COVID-19), available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>
 - Simplified risk exposure categories based on most common scenarios.
 - Updated recommendations regarding healthcare provider contact tracing, monitoring, and work restrictions in selected circumstances among other recommendations.
- **Review WA State Department of Health Specimen Collection Instructions** for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (3/9/2020) available at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthLaboratories/MicrobiologyLabTestMenu>
 - Collect and submit 1 upper respiratory specimen (OP and NP swabs combined). Lower respiratory specimen if readily available or if patient is intubated.
- **Participate in** the CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call about **Information for Clinicians Caring for Children and Pregnant Women** on **Thursday March 12, 11am-12pm**. Call information available at: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_031220.asp

Questions? Please contact our Communicable Disease staff at 360-728-2235

Background

2 Kitsap County residents have tested positive for COVID-19 as of Wednesday morning, March 11, 2020. 19 tests have been negative.