

January 21, 2020

## Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Respiratory Infection

### Actions Requested

- **Be aware** that 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in a traveler who recently returned to Snohomish County from Wuhan, China.
- **Obtain a detailed travel history** for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness.
- **Suspect 2019-nCoV** in patients who present with:
  - Fever AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) AND in the 14 days before symptom onset:
    - Have a history of travel from Wuhan City, China --or--
    - Had close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill
  - Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) AND in the 14 days before symptom onset had close contact with an ill lab-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient
- **Ask patients** with suspected 2019-nCoV infection to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and evaluate them in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available.
- **Ensure healthcare personnel entering the room** use standard, contact, and airborne precautions with eye protection (e.g., gown, gloves, N95 mask or PAPR, and face shield or goggles).
- **Prepare to collect** lower respiratory, upper respiratory, and serum specimens. Stool and urine may also be collected. Specimens should be refrigerated. **Public health will provide guidance and facilitation** regarding specimen collection, storage, and shipping.
- **Immediately notify public health** and infection prevention personnel if 2019-nCoV infection is suspected.

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

### Background

**Currently there have been no cases of 2019-nCoV reported to public health in Kitsap County.**

The CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities first identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in more than 200 confirmed human infections in China with several deaths reported. A number of countries, including the United States, are actively screening incoming travelers from Wuhan. Exported cases have been confirmed in neighboring countries and in a traveler who returned to Snohomish County from Wuhan last week.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS and SARS. Past MERS and SARS outbreaks have been complex, requiring comprehensive public health responses.

Many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China have reported 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.

Based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is deemed to be low at this time.

### Resources

- (1) CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>
- (2) CDC Situation Summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>
- (3) WA DOH News Release: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Newsroom/Articles/ID/1068/Case-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-confirmed-in-Washington-state-resident>