

March 2, 2020

Coronavirus-2019 Patient Evaluation and Reporting

Actions Requested

- **Assess your patients** who have respiratory illness complaints.
- **Ask patients with suspect COVID-19 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.
- **Immediately notify public health if COVID-19 infection is suspected** based on the following case definition for patients who present with:
 - Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) AND any person, including healthcare personnel who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
 - Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization AND a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset.
 - Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) requiring hospitalization and without an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza).
- The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has advised KPHD that if a physician needs to test for COVID-19 in order to manage their patient's conditions, such as a patient with chronic disease or immunosuppression, requests will be considered in consultation with the DOH on a case by case basis as testing is not readily available for every person.
- We understand that testing for COVID-19 is now available at the University of Washington Viral Lab. Please note that CDC recommends health care personnel wear proper PPE for specimen collection. If you are interested in sending specimens, please contact the lab directly at: <https://testguide.labmed.uw.edu/public/view/NCVQLT>
- New patient instructions are forthcoming from DOH and will be shared as soon as they are available.
- **Ensure health care personnel entering a patient room** use standard, contact, and airborne precautions with eye protection (e.g., gown, gloves, N95 mask or PAPR, and face shield or goggles).
- If your organization is unable to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), contact the Northwest Healthcare Response Network: LogsSC.HECC@nwhrn.org
- **Consult** the Washington State Department of Health website for updates on the situation in Washington. Updates and new resources can be found at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

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

Background

No cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Kitsap County as of 4pm Monday March 2, 2020. Washington State has 18 positive confirmed cases and 6 deaths. Public health officials have confirmed COVID-19 is spreading in Washington state and Kitsap health care providers should be prepared for community spread in our county. This is a rapidly changing situation.

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, 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.

Resources

- (1) WA DOH Novel Coronavirus Outbreak 2019: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- (2) CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>
- (3) CDC Situation Summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>