

March 4, 2020

COVID-2019 Patient Evaluation and Infection Prevention

Actions Requested

NEW

- **Use the updated form** “COVID-19 Assessment Information: Evaluating Persons with Fever and Acute Respiratory Illness (updated 2/28/2020)” when **assessing your patients** who have respiratory illness complaints (attached).
- **Follow the Washington State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response: Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings (3/1/2020)** (attached).
- **Participate in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call on Thursday March 5, 2pm EST.** Register to attend the call: https://www.train.org/main/course/1090235/live_event
- **Utilize resources and guidance from the American Medical Association COVID-19 Resource Center** <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-2019-novel-coronavirus-resource-center-physicians>

ONGOING

- **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).
- **Testing for COVID-19 is now available at the University of Washington Virology 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>
- **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 noon Wednesday March 4, 2020; Washington State has 39 positive confirmed cases and 10 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.

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/>