

January 24, 2020

## Novel Coronavirus Provider Resources

### Actions Requested

- **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>
- **Review the attached Healthcare Provider Evaluation Tool and Healthcare Provider Tracking Form.** The Healthcare Provider Tracking Form is for healthcare workers who have cared for or are caring for patients with suspected or confirmed 2019 novel coronavirus.
- **Obtain a detailed travel and exposure 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 health care 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. Specimens should be refrigerated.
  - **Public health will provide guidance and facilitation** regarding specimen collection, storage, and shipping.
  - **At this time, testing for 2019-nCoV is only available through CDC** and needs to be approved by public health prior to submission.
- **Immediately notify public health** and infection prevention personnel if 2019-nCoV infection is suspected.
- **Inform staff and patients** about a Washington State Department of Health call center to address questions from the public. Call 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

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

### Background

**No cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported to public health in Kitsap County.** In Washington, one case of 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in a traveler who recently returned to Snohomish County from Wuhan, China. A second U.S. case was confirmed Jan. 24 in Illinois.

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. Several countries, including the United States, are actively screening incoming travelers from Wuhan.

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/>