For any questions, call the Humboldt County Public Health Communicable Disease Program at (707) 268-2182

HEALTH ADVISORY
February 5th, 2020

CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (named “2019-nCoV”) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC).

Currently, the US has 11 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV. Community level transmission is not occurring in the US at this time. As emphasized by the CDC, the risk of exposure for US residents is currently very low. There have been no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in Humboldt County.

As this global situation rapidly evolves, CDC continues to disseminate updated information and guidance for healthcare clinicians and Public Health professionals. In the most recent update from CDC, Patients Under Investigation (PUI) criteria expanded to include patients with travel to mainland China – not strictly Hubei Province, China.

**Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Testing of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>Epidemiologic Risk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever$^1$ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact$^2$ with a laboratory-confirmed$^3$$^4$ 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever$^1$ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>A history of travel from Hubei Province, China$^5$ within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever$^1$ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization$^4$</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>A history of travel from mainland China$^5$ within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. Patients should be evaluated and discussed with public health departments on a case-by-case basis if their clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure).*

**FOOTNOTES:**
1. Fever may be subjective or confirmed
2. Close contact is defined as:
   a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a 2019-nCoV case for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a 2019-nCoV case – or
   b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a 2019-nCoV case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.
3. Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of 2019-nCoV may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.
4. Category also includes any member of a cluster of patients with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) of unknown etiology in which 2019-nCoV is being considered that requires hospitalization. Such persons should be evaluated in consultation with state and local health departments regardless of travel history.
5. For persons with travel to China within 14 days that are being regularly monitored by local health departments or referred for evaluation from border screening, testing for nCoV can be considered at the discretion of the health officials for all persons with illnesses with fever and lower respiratory symptoms (those hospitalized and those not hospitalized).
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Some other notable CDC updates:

**Update & Interim Guidance on Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)** – *Updated Feb. 1st*
Link: [https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00427.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00427.asp)

**Information For Healthcare Professionals** – *Updated Feb. 1st*

**Flowchart To Identify & Assess 2019 Novel Coronavirus** – *Updated Feb. 1st*

**Frequently Asked Questions & Answers** – *Updated Feb. 3rd*

**Cases In The US** – *Updated Feb. 3rd*

Public Health will also link documents regarding 2019 Novel Coronavirus to the DHHS webpage. Link: [https://humboldtgov.org/560/Communicable-Disease-Prevention](https://humboldtgov.org/560/Communicable-Disease-Prevention)

Previous Public Health Broadcast Faxes including information on lab sample collection can be found at: Link: [https://humboldtgov.org/2237/Provider-Communication-from-Public-Health](https://humboldtgov.org/2237/Provider-Communication-from-Public-Health)

Communicable Disease Surveillance continues to be at the ready for any inquiries or concerns regarding 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Please call the main line at (707) 268-2182 to report any suspected case of 2019-nCoV.