



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

HEALTH ADVISORY
February 20th, 2020

Public Health Reports Humboldt County's First Case of COVID-19

Current Situation

The Humboldt County Public Health Department has received confirmation from California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of a case of COVID-19 in a Humboldt County resident. There is a second ill individual who is a close contact of the index case and is being tested. This second case is not yet confirmed. This marks the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Humboldt County.

Presently, the ill individuals are doing well and are self-isolating at home, while being monitored for symptoms by the Public Health Communicable Disease Surveillance and Control Unit. Any close contacts of this individual will be quarantined at home and monitored for symptoms by health department staff. With the amount of foreign travel by County residents, including travel to China, it is not surprising that a case has emerged locally. Additional cases may occur either in returning travelers or their close contacts.

Despite the fact that Humboldt County now has a confirmed case of COVID-19, there is no evidence to suggest that novel coronavirus is circulating in the community. The risk to the public is still low. Transmission in the US to date has been among close contacts and not among the general public.

Clinicians are requested to:

- Obtain detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness and inquire as to whether they were exposed to a confirmed case. Ensure that patients with exposure histories are masked and that healthcare personnel are wearing appropriate PPE
- Contact and collaborate with Humboldt County Public Health Communicable Disease Surveillance when evaluating a patient who may meet criteria to test for COVID-19
- Check CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) webpage **frequently** for updated information and guidance

What Public Health is doing?

In close consultation with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Humboldt County Public Health Communicable Disease Surveillance is:

- Case Finding - reaching out to those who have been in contact with the case to determine their level of exposure to COVID-19. Close contacts are being quarantined at home and monitored for symptoms

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- Prevention Planning – working with local providers and community partners to enhance efforts to prevent community transmission for COVID-19 thru use of signage and handouts
- Educational outreach – developing educational messages and handouts to inform the community about the prevention of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

Please join us in this messaging to patients:

- Stay home when you are sick
 - If you have a fever stay home. If you become ill with fever while at work or school, go home and remain there for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (*without the use of fever-reducing medicine*)
 - Promote hand hygiene through education and availability of soap, hand sanitizers, and tissues
 - Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes, nose, and mouth
 - Encourage proper cough etiquette – cough or sneeze into a tissue, sleeve, or arm. Do not use your hands
 - Perform routine surface cleaning in the home, particularly for high-touch surfaces
- Consider not attending or hosting large gatherings. This is where cold, flu, and other respiratory viruses are often spread

Helpful Links:

CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Webpage

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Cases in the U.S.

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

Previous Public Health Broadcast Faxes (including information on lab sample collection):

Link: <https://humboldt.gov/2237/Provider-Communication-from-Public-Health>

Communicable Disease Surveillance continues to be at the ready for any inquiries or concerns regarding COVID-19. Please call the main line at **(707) 268-2182** to report any suspected case of novel coronavirus.

