



HEALTH ADVISORY

February 21st, 2020

Currently, the US has 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Community level transmission is not occurring in the US at this time. As emphasized by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk of exposure for US residents is currently very low. To date, there has been one confirmed case 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.

In a further update to the PUI criteria, CDC deemed that severely ill patients could be considered for COVID-19 evaluation, even if a known source of exposure had not been identified:

Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Testing of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19

For any patient meeting criteria for evaluation for COVID-19, clinicians are encouraged to contact and collaborate with their state or local health department. For patients that are severely ill, evaluation for COVID-19 may be considered even if a known source of exposure has not been identified

Clinical Features	AND	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	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
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from Hubei Province , China ⁵ within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization ⁴	AND	A history of travel from mainland China ⁵ within 14 days of symptom onset

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. For severely ill individuals, testing can be considered when exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure, or no known exposure) and another etiology has not been identified



DHHS Administration
 phone: (707) 441-5400
 fax: (707) 441-5412

Mental Health
 phone: (707) 268-2990
 fax: (707) 476-4049

Social Services
 phone: (707) 476-4700
 fax: (707) 441-2096



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

Footnotes

¹Fever may be subjective or confirmed

²Close contact is defined as—

a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a 2019-nCoV case for a prolonged period of time; 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)

If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection), criteria for PUI consideration are met”

See CDC’s updated [Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Persons Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)

Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk) and the clinical symptoms of the person with 2019-nCoV (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk as does exposure to a severely ill patient). Special consideration should be given to those exposed in health care settings.

³Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of 2019-nCoV may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.

⁴Category 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.

⁵For 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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Helpful Links:

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 US – Updated Feb. 21st

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

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) webpage

Link: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE

Link:

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Previous Public Health Broadcast Faxes including information on lab sample collection can be found at:

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.

