Health Advisory

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Update to Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Current Situation

Federal, state, and local health officials are 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. Chinese health officials have reported thousands of infections with 2019-nCoV in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person in many parts of China. Infections with 2019-nCoV, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, also are being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States.

The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread with this virus on January 30, 2020. There are currently 3 cases of confirmed 2019-nCov in California, none among Monterey County residents. Though the risk of infection with 2019-nCoV is very low for the average Californian at this time, Monterey County Health Department urges all providers to take steps now to be able to identify, isolate, and report individuals potentially ill with 2019-nCoV.

Recommendations for Health Care Providers

The CDC clinical criteria for a 2019-nCoV patient under investigation (PUI) are subject to change as additional information becomes available.

- Obtain a detailed travel history on all individuals presenting with respiratory symptoms.

Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI for 2019-nCoV:

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Clinical Features & Epidemiologic Risk

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<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>Epidemiologic Risk</th>
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<td>1. Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath).</td>
<td>AND Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset, or</td>
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<td>2. Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath).</td>
<td>AND A history of travel from Hubei Province, China within 14 days of symptom onset, or</td>
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<td>3. Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization.</td>
<td>AND A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset.</td>
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- **Immediately contact the Monterey County Health Department** if the symptomatic person meets the above PUI criteria.
  - Call 831-755-4521 during normal business hours and 831-755-5100 after normal business hours. When calling the after-hours line, ask for the Hazardous Materials Team, who will transfer you to the on-call Health Officer.
  - Do not wait for results from other rule out tests (e.g., flu, RSV, etc.) before calling the Health Department.

- **Isolate individuals with suspected 2019-nCoV.** Place a surgical mask on the patient. Move the patient to an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR), if available.
  - If no AIIR is available, place the patient in a single-patient room and close the door.
  - Staff entering the room should use standard, contact, and airborne precautions with the addition of eye protection (e.g., gloves, gown, N95 respirator, and a face shield or goggles).
  - In accordance with CalOSHA guidelines, PAPRs should be used for any aerosol-generating procedures.

- **Under the guidance of Monterey County Health Department staff, collect appropriate specimens.**
  - Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) AND oropharyngeal (OP) swab using synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts placed in 2-3 mL of viral transport media (VTM), and
  - Sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, or tracheal aspirate collected in a sterile dry container. Sputum specimens should be at least 5 mL; 2-3mL of bronchoalveolar lavage or tracheal aspirate is needed, and
  - 5-10 mL of whole blood in a serum separator tube.
  - Additional specimens may also be requested including stool and urine.
  - Specimens should be refrigerated at 2-8° C.

- **Post signage at facility points of entry** requesting individuals who have respiratory symptoms and recently traveled to China to check in and don a mask.
  - Signage in English, Spanish, and Chinese is available for download on the Monterey County Health Department website at www.mtyhd.org/2019nCoV.
  - Educate frontline reception staff about screening and infection control procedures.

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For more information about testing, diagnosing, and reporting 2019-nCoV, please contact the Monterey County Health Department’s Communicable Disease Unit at 831-755-4521. Additional information is available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

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