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HOT TIPS #111 DATE 01/22/2020

Please copy and distribute to ALL physicians at your location.

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
Update to Hot Tips #110 -1/10/2020

CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (“2019-nCoV”) first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to spread. A number of countries, including the United States, have been actively screening incoming travelers from Wuhan and human infections with 2019-nCoV have now been confirmed in Thailand, Japan, and South Korea. The United States announced its first infection with 2019-nCoV detected in a traveler returning from Wuhan on January 21, 2020 in Washington State.

Symptoms of 2019-nCoV

Symptoms are very similar to influenza including:

Runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, fever, chills, shortness of breath

Ventura County Public Health requests that health care providers ask patients with severe respiratory disease about travel history to Wuhan City. Wuhan City is a major transportation hub about 700 miles south of Beijing with a population of more than 11 million people.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

No vaccine or specific treatment¹ for 2019-nCoV infection is available; care is supportive.

The CDC clinical criteria for a 2019-nCoV “patient under investigation” (PUI) have been developed based on what is known about MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV and are subject to change as additional information is available.

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

Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Wuhan City, China.

- Fever AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and
- History of travel from Wuhan City, China in the last 14 days before symptom onset
- or-
- Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.

¹ Investigational New Drug antiviral Remdesivir available thru CDC-EOC for treatment of 2019-nCoV in certain situations

-OR-

- Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
- Close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient in the last 14 days before symptom onset

The above criteria are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>. 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).

Recommendations for Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection

Healthcare providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their healthcare facility and Ventura County Public Health at 805-981-5201 in the event of a PUI for 2019-nCoV.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf>

Specimens for testing should include upper and lower (when available) respiratory tract samples and serum. NP swabs of both the nasopharynx and the throat should be collected if possible and a nasal wash specimen as well. All specimens, swabs and serum, should be kept refrigerated. Providers who have identified a PUI should notify the Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Laboratory at 805 981-5131 or 981-5101 to report the PUI and determine whether testing for 2019-NCoV at CDC is indicated. **The VCPH Laboratory will assist providers and local laboratories with information on collecting, storing, and how to ship specimens appropriately to CDC, including during afterhours or on weekends/holidays.**

Current Situation

- The first US case of 2019-nCoV was announced on 1/21/2020 and detected in a traveler returning from Wuhan City to Washington State
 - The Washington case is an otherwise healthy 35 year-old that tested negative for influenza on 1/15/2020, and because he was still symptomatic and had returned from Wuhan, went in to have a sample collected on 1/19/2020
 - This is considered a mild case
 - Asymptomatic upon return, he became symptomatic after return to the US
 - Travel screening education seems to have been key in his return for further testing
 - He reported out positive for 2019-nCoV as of 1/19/2020
- Globally there have been 300 plus cases detected to date
 - There are a growing number of cases with no exposure to animal markets leading to an assumption of **limited human-to-human transmission**
 - Cases of Health Care Worker (HCW) transmission have been documented in Wuhan City
- Cases have been detected in 6 locations globally outside of Wuhan City:
 - Beijing, China; Guangdong Province, China
 - Taiwan; Thailand; Japan; Washington State, US
- CDC has opened its Emergency Operations Center to better monitor and respond to the situation
 - CDC is closely monitoring this situation and is working with WHO.
 - CDC established a 2019-nCoV Incident Management Structure on January 7, 2020. On January 21, 2020, CDC activated its Emergency Response System to better provide ongoing support to the 2019-nCoV response.
- US is screening all direct and connecting flights from Wuhan, China to the 3 main ports of entry in the US
 - Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), and New York (JFK)

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- Expansion to of the screening program two additional airports in Atlanta and Chicago is anticipated in the coming days
- 11 countries are doing entry screening
 - The US is the first country to do entry screening for 2019-nCoV outside of Asia
- Wuhan City is doing exit screening for everyone leaving the city by air, train, bus, etc.
- On January 21, 2020, CDC again updated its interim travel health notice for this destination to provide information to people who may be traveling to Wuhan City and who may get sick. The travel notice was raised from Level 1; Practice Usual Precautions, to **Level 2: Practice Enhanced Precautions** advising travelers that preliminary information suggests that older adults with underlying health conditions may be at increased risk for severe disease.
- CDC has developed a real time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) test that can diagnose 2019-nCoV
 - Currently, testing for this virus must take place at CDC, but in the coming days and weeks, CDC will share these tests with domestic and international partners through the agency's International Reagent Resource
 - NextGen sequencing is in place to detect where the 2019-nCoV virus came from and how it's evolving

Flights & Air travel – additional information

- 75,000 passengers enter the US annually from Wuhan City compared to 350 million entering US each year by air
 - Passengers from Wuhan City, China account for 0.21% of those entering the US annually
- Health messaging and education for passengers on flights from Wuhan include:
 - Tells them what exposures would be of concern during travels, including animal markets
 - Tells them what signs & symptoms to look for
 - Tells them who to call if they develop signs & symptoms
- Wuhan conducts exit screening from airports, train stations, bus stations, etc.
 - Content of screening and education is unknown
- Screening is not 100% effective, but it is a layer of intervention to reduce the number of cases that would otherwise come into the US by air
- As of 1/21/2020 screening incoming travelers from Wuhan City has been in place for four (4) days
 - 1,200 have been screened with 12 given a more in-depth screening
 - Of 12 none have met a person of interest definition

This bulletin is intended to improve the public health in our county by keeping physicians and nurses informed of noteworthy diagnoses, disease trends and other events of medical interest. Another goal of a public health department is to educate. We hope that you will use this information to increase your awareness. Please allow us to continue in our role of speaking to the press so that we may maximize the educational message to the benefit of all citizens of Ventura County.

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