Update and Interim Guidance for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to track the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). CDC has expanded its criteria for testing. Please see the guidance below. Information in this alert is provisional and is expected to change as more information becomes available from global and national sources.¹

Interim guidance for clinicians and infection control and other updates on 2019-nCoV are posted on the OHA Novel Coronavirus Updates website.

The OHA Healthcare-Associated Infections Program will hold a call to discuss infection control guidance for 2019-nCoV. This call will be geared toward healthcare providers and infection preventionists. Invitations will be extended to health care partners the week of February 3. For additional information, please contact REBECCA.A.PIERCE@dhsoha.state.or.us.

Clinicians

Healthcare providers are required to immediately notify Jackson County Public Health of any suspect cases of 2019-nCoV. Please report directly by calling 541-774-8045 during business hours, and after-hours call 541-618-4651.

Upon notification, Jackson County Public Health’s Communicable Disease Program will assist with testing approval from the Oregon Health Authority. The notification step will also allow Jackson County Public Health to implement disease control measures that will reduce the virus from spreading.

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<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
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<th>Epidemiological Risk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever 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 with a laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever 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 within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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Please print the Reporting Guidelines

Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization
AND
A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset

Testing
CDC has expanded its criteria for testing. Turnaround time is currently at least one week. Testing will not be available locally for at least several more weeks.

OHA recommends that you ask people presenting with fever along with cough or dyspnea about travel to or from mainland China (and Hubei Province in particular) in the last 14 days. Anyone with travel to Hubei Province in the last 14 days with compatible symptoms should be promptly isolated, preferably in a negative pressure room with standard, contact, and airborne precautions along with eye protection. These patients should be tested; contact the local health department where they reside or are staying.

Symptomatic patients whose only exposure risk is travel in China (outside of Hubei Province) should be isolated, preferably in a negative pressure room with standard, contact, and airborne precautions along with eye protection; if no such room is available, a private room with door closed and masking of patient and provider with surgical masks is acceptable.

If a patient does not need to be admitted, recommend home isolation while ill and return as needed if symptoms worsen. See CDC guidance for home care and contact the local health department where they reside or are staying. Jackson County Public Health will actively be monitoring the person and making sure isolation directions are followed.

Patients sick enough to be hospitalized should be tested for novel coronavirus and other respiratory pathogens, as indicated. They should also be reported to the local health department where they reside or are staying.

To arrange for testing of an Oregon patient, please work with Jackson County Public Health to receive approval from the Oregon Health Authority, and arrange for shipping to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory.

Specimen collection: All specimens should be stored at 2–8°F and shipped on an ice pack. Label each specimen container with the patient’s ID number (e.g., medical record number), unique specimen ID (e.g., laboratory requisition number), specimen type (e.g., serum) and the date the sample was collected.

Resources for Healthcare Providers
- Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV):
National Updates

Imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in people have been detected in the U.S. While person-to-person spread among close contacts has been detected, at this time this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States.²

The Chinese authorities and a recent New England Journal of Medicine case report suggest that transmission of this virus is possible before an infected person shows symptoms.¹

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.” On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to 2019-nCoV.

Also, on January 31, the President of the United States signed a presidential “Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus.”² Beginning on Sunday, February 2nd, the United States Government will implement temporary measures to increase the United States’ abilities to detect and contain the coronavirus. This includes temporarily suspending the entry into the United States of foreign nationals who pose a risk of transmitting the 2019-nCoV.³ Any U.S. citizen returning to the United States from the Hubei Province will be subject 14 days of mandatory quarantine, and if they are returning from Mainland China within the previous 14 days, they will undergo health screening at the select ports of entry and up to 14 days of monitored self-quarantine.³

The mission of Jackson County Health and Human Services is to plan, coordinate and provide public services that protect and promote the health and well-being of county residents.

REFERENCES