



3/3/2020

* **NOTICE:** This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.

COVID-19 Respiratory Infection

Requested Action:

- 1) Continue to assess your patients for the variety of respiratory illness circulating in the community. We continue to see Influenza A, B, Respiratory Syncytial Virus and others.
- 2) Assess patients and contact your local health jurisdiction about approval for testing for COVID-19, the assessment form is located at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/Interim-2019NovelCoronavirusQuicksheetProviders.pdf>.



COVID-19 Assessment Information: Evaluating Persons with Fever and Acute Respiratory Illness (updated 2/28/2020)

- Obtain a detailed travel history on ALL patients being evaluated for fever and acute respiratory illness.
- Use the assessment criteria below to determine if COVID-19 should be included in the differential diagnosis.

Name:		DOB:	Interview date:
Address:		Phone:	
Assessment Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
A) Did/Does the patient have a fever? (Fever may not be present in some patients, use clinical judgement to guide testing.)			Fever onset date: ___/___/___ Highest measured temperature: _____ °F □ °C □ Check if SUBJECTIVE fever only
B) Does the patient have symptoms of lower respiratory illness (LRI) (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)?			Symptom onset date: ___/___/___ □ Cough □ Sore throat □ Difficulty breathing Other Symptoms (list): _____
C) Does the patient require hospitalization for severe LRI (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS)?			
D) Has the patient tested negative for other common respiratory pathogens? (e.g., influenza)?			
E) In the 14 days before symptom onset, did the patient: i. Have close contact with a lab-confirmed COVID-19 patient?			Dates of contact with COVID-19 lab-confirmed case: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___ Name of COVID-19 lab-confirmed case (if known): _____ Nature of contact: □ Family/Household □ Coworker □ Healthcare worker □ Travel □ Other: _____ Comments: _____
ii. Travel from affected geographic areas*? CDC Coronavirus Travel Information: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/travelers/index.html			Dates: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___ Arrival in US: ___/___/___ Locations visited in 14 days before symptom onset: _____
Suspect COVID-19 if you answered YES to			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A or B and E, OR • A and B and C and E, OR • A and B and C and D 			*If patient does not meet case definition but there is a high index of clinical suspicion, contact LHJ.

IMMEDIATELY:

- Ensure that the patient is masked and isolated in a private room with the door closed AND
- Ensure that healthcare personnel entering the room use standard, contact, AND airborne precautions, INCLUDING eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield that covers the front and sides of the face).
 - Note: Airborne precautions includes use of fit-tested NIOSH-certified N95 filtering facepiece respirator or higher.
- Notify your healthcare facility's infection control personnel.
- Perform any clinically indicated respiratory and other diagnostic tests and note results below:

Rapid Influenza: □ A □ B	Neg □ Pos □ Pending □ Not Done
Rapid Strep	Neg □ Pos □ Pending □ Not Done
Viral Respiratory Panel	Neg □ Pos □ Pending □ Not Done
Pneumonia	Neg □ Pos □ Pending □ Not Done
Legionella	Neg □ Pos □ Pending □ Not Done
Other: _____	Neg □ Pos □ Pending □ Not Done

Other clinically relevant testing:

Chest X-Ray □ Not Done □ Pending □ Normal
 □ Abnormal: _____
 Other: _____
 Other: _____

- Call your [local health jurisdiction](#) (LHJ) with the above information to discuss the case and determine whether to test for SARS-CoV-2. (If after hours and the LHJ is not available, call the Washington State Department of Health at 206-418-5500.)
- If instructed by your local health department, collect samples for SARS-CoV-2 testing. See 2019-nCoV tab here: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthLaboratories/MicrobiologyLabTestMenu>
 - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab* and □ Oropharyngeal (OP) swab*
 - If readily available or if patient is intubated, lower respiratory specimen

*synthetic swab in 2-3 ml viral transport media



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Background:

On January 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Washington State Department of Health announced the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Washington State. This is a rapidly evolving situation. As of March 2nd, Washington State had 18 individuals confirmed as positive and 6 deaths from COVID-19 in King and Snohomish Counties with 231 individuals under public health supervision. Individuals under public health supervision include those at risk of having been exposed to novel coronavirus who are monitoring their health under the supervision of public health officials, close contacts of laboratory confirmed cases, and individuals who have returned from travel to affected international locations in the past 14 days and are included in federal quarantine guidance. We expect the numbers to rise with the COVID-19 testing now available through the WA St Department of Health Lab see:

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/PHL_Testing.pdf. Specimens must be approved by both the Local and State Health Departments prior to submission.

The University of Washington (U of W) began offering testing for COVID-19 through their Virology Lab <https://testguide.labmed.uw.edu/public/view/NCVQLT> on March 2nd. Contact them directly through their website or at (206) 520-4600 or 1 (800) 713-5198 to inquire about the testing they offer. It may be an option for you for your patients who do not meet current Department of Health testing criteria. The test the U of W is performing provides a preliminary result that will go through a required confirmation by the WA St Public Health Lab. Work continues at the federal level to expedite the availability of commercial testing resources.

The risk posed by a virus outbreak depends on factors including how well it spreads person to person, severity of the illness it causes, and the medical or other measures we have to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine or treatment medications). The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is very high, both to the United States and globally.

What's the current risk?

- The risk of exposure is increasing for people who live in communities in Washington state with reported spread of COVID-19.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Those who have had close contact with persons with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> here community spread is occurring are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Our knowledge of COVID-19 is still rapidly evolving. The risk assessment will be updated as needed

Resources:

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services:
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

WA State DOH – COVID-19: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

WA State DOH – Healthcare Provider Information:
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/HealthcareProviders>

WA State DOH – First responders
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/FirstResponders>

WA State DOH – Persons Who are at Higher Risk for Serious Illness -
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/HigherRiskforSeriousIllness>

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2533



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Health Care Professional Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

CDC - Communities, Schools, and Businesses https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fpreparing-individuals-com

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING - WE COULD NOT DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>