



1/23/2020

** 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.*

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Respiratory Infection -Wuhan City, China & Snohomish County, January 21, 2020 (Watch for Additional Information)

Requested Actions

- Be aware that 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in a traveler who recently returned to Snohomish County from Wuhan, China.
- Obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness.
- 2019-nCoV should be suspected in patients who present with:
 - fever **AND** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) **AND** in the 14 days before symptom onset:
 - have a history of travel from Wuhan City, China --or--
 - had close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
 - fever **OR** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) **AND** in the 14 days before symptom onset had close contact with an ill lab-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.
- Ask patients with suspected 2019-nCoV infection to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and evaluate them in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available.
- All healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., gown, gloves, N95 mask or PAPR, and face shield or goggles).
- **Immediately notify both infection control personnel at your healthcare facility and the local health jurisdiction at (360) 867-2500 in the event of a suspected case of 2019-nCoV.**
- Prepare to collect lower respiratory, upper respiratory and serum specimens. Stool and urine may also be collected. Specimens should be refrigerated. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department Public health will provide guidance and facilitation regarding specimen collection, storage, and shipping. The Interim 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) patient under investigation (PUI) form found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf> provides information about recommended respiratory testing.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities first identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in more than 300 confirmed human infections in China with four deaths reported. A number of countries, including the United States, are actively screening incoming travelers from Wuhan. Exported cases have been confirmed in neighboring countries and in a traveler, who returned to Snohomish County from Wuhan last week.



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Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>) and SARS (<https://www.cdc.gov/sars/index.html>). Past MERS and SARS outbreaks have been complex, requiring comprehensive public health responses.

Many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China have reported some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting person-to-person spread is occurring.

Based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is deemed to be low at this time.

Additional Resources

CDC Situation Summary page - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>

CDC Interim Guidance for Preventing Transmission in Homes and Communities
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

CDC Guidance for Travelers - <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/novel-coronavirus-china>

CDC Interim 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) patient under investigation (PUI) form - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf>

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 911 and ask staff to locate the Administrator-On-Call.
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>