



January 24, 2020

Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China

A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been identified as the cause of an outbreak of pneumonia originating in Wuhan, China. As of January 24, 2020, there have been 2 cases identified in the U.S. and over 60 patients are under investigation. Currently, CDC Travel Health Notice Level 3: Avoid all non-essential travel to this destination. The outbreak is of high risk to travelers and no precautions are available to protect against the identified increased risk. The best way to prepare and respond to potential cases is through i³ approach (identify, isolate, and inform):

Identify — If a symptomatic patient has had recent history to Hubei Province, China (within 14 days of symptom onset) or had close contact with a person under investigation for 2019-nCoV, they should be given a surgical mask, and moved to a private, negative pressure room. Our international travel prompt and alert is active. Staff must enter the specific location of travel as China for the alert to fire. **Symptoms include** a lower respiratory illness (cough, difficulty breathing) and the incubation period is estimated to be around 14 days.

Isolate — Airborne/Contact isolation precautions (for staff: N95 mask + gown/gloves) should be utilized. The door to the patient’s room should be kept closed to maintain negative pressure. Eye protection should also be utilized (goggles or face-shield). Our current standard low/intermediate and UV disinfection protocols are effective against this novel coronavirus.

Inform- Healthcare providers should immediately notify Infection Prevention at their facility and the local state health department in the event a patient meets criteria for patients under investigation for 2019-nCoV. Discussion with the Maricopa County Health Department will determine if testing is necessary, which will be coordinated to include collection, storage, and shipping to the CDC. **The CDC recommends that testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen collection and shipping.**

- For specimens, the order for Coronavirus would be **Miscellaneous LAB9999** and the verbiage would be: “SEND OUT TO STATE LAB FOR CORONAVIRUS. NOTIFY MARICOPA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH at 602-506-6767 PRIOR TO SEND OUT”

This situation is likely to continue evolving and travel screenings may expand to other countries. Infection Prevention and Control will work to provide up-to-date information and guidance. Further information on testing and specimen collection can be found on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>).

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.

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever! and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	and	In the last 14 days before symptom onset, a history of travel from Wuhan City, China. – or – In the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact ² 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 last 14 days, close contact ² with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

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).

For all patients who meet PUI criteria for 2019-nCoV:

- 1) Healthcare personnel entering the room should use airborne precautions, plus standard precautions, contact precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield);
- 2) Immediately notify your healthcare facility’s infection control personnel;
- 3) Immediately notify Maricopa County Department of Public Health:
 - a. Monday–Friday 8AM–5PM — call (602) 506-6767 and ask for a Surveillance Nurse or;
 - b. After 5PM and on weekends — call (602) 747-7111 and ask for the Provider On-Call.
- 4) Collect specimens for testing for 2019-nCoV, which include:
 - a. Lower respiratory specimen (e.g., sputum, BAL);
 - b. Upper respiratory specimen (e.g., nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal [NP/OP] swab), and;
 - c. Serum.

