

Effective: 01/24/2020

Expiration: N/A

Replaces Medical Directive #: N/A

Subject: 2019 Novel Coronavirus

In late 2019, a new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. The first United States confirmed case of infection with this new virus has been diagnosed in Washington State.

If you are evaluating a patient with symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, fever), follow the “Identify, Isolate, Inform” Process:

Identify

Patients with both Clinical Features and Epidemiologic Risk:

- Fever AND/OR Symptoms of lower respiratory illness, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; AND
- In the last 14-days before symptoms onset, have:
 - History of travel from Wuhan City, China,
 - OR, Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill
 - Close contact is defined as:
 - being within approximately 6-feet, or within the room or care area for a prolonged time, of a 2019-nCoV patient while not wearing appropriate PPE
 - caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a 2019-nCoV patient
 - having direct contact with infectious secretions of a 2019-nCoV case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended PPE
 - OR, close contact with an ill confirmed 2019-nCoV patient
- Remember that fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications.
- For patients identified through the 911 call-taking process, begin with below Isolation instructions while confirming screening questions

Isolate

- Place a surgical mask on the patient as soon as meeting the above criteria
- Don airborne-precaution PPE: gloves, fluid-resistant gown, N-95 face mask, and eye protection

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Inform

- Follow Agency institutional policy on notification for HCID, including Agency chain-of-command
- Notify destination receiving facility of a patient with positive screening
- For patients refusing treatment or transport, contact OLPG
- Plan for decontamination of personnel, equipment, and ambulance

Further background information is available at the CDC's Health Advisory Network:

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00426.asp>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly.



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