

Effective: 02/04/2020

Expiration: N/A

Replaces Medical Directive #: 2001006

Subject: 2019 Novel Coronavirus – February Update

Due to further spread across mainland China and Asia, the CDC has updated their screening criteria for 2019 nCoV. Please see below for updated criteria (noted in **bold**) for use in the MAEMSA System.

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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), **first place the patient in a surgical mask**. Then, 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 **mainland China (especially Wuhan City or Hubei Province), or other countries experiencing outbreaks (currently other countries in Asia, parts of Europe – this will may change frequently)**,
 - **OR**, Close contact with a **confirmed**, or 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
- 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

(continued on next page)

Isolate

- Ensure patient continues to wear surgical mask
- Don airborne precaution PPE: gloves, fluid-resistant gown, N-95 face mask, and eye protection

Inform

- Follow Agency institutional policy on notification for HCID, including Agency chain-of-command
- Notify destination receiving facility of a patient **requiring negative pressure room and airborne precautions**
- 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://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

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



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