



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update - 2 for January 22, 2020

KY Public Health Issues 2019 Novel Coronavirus Clinician Health Advisory

(Frankfort) A Clinician Health Advisory has come out from the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) regarding the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that was recently identified in China. The attached guidance is intended for all Kentucky healthcare providers who might see patients who have

HEALTH ALERT: *Travelers from Wuhan, China*

There is an outbreak of pneumonia in **Wuhan, China** caused by a new type of coronavirus.

If you have been in Wuhan within the past 2 weeks and develop a fever, cough, or have difficulty breathing, seek medical care right away.

- Call ahead before going to see a doctor or emergency room.
- Tell them your symptoms and that you were in Wuhan.
- Give them this card.

Triage Staff/Clinicians:

- Use standard, contact, and airborne precautions, and eye protection.
- Notify infection control and your state/local health department immediately.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/wuhan



a travel history to Wuhan, China or exposure to someone already under investigation for, or confirmed as a case with, 2019-nCoV.

Note that coronaviruses are common in the U.S., so a specific exposure history is necessary to identify a person who might be infected with 2019-nCoV.

Please see the attached documents for more detailed information.

Situation Summary

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC posts Interim Guidance for Healthcare Professionals

<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 and Epidemiological Risk

Fever ¹ 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 ¹ 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).

Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

Recommendations for Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection

Healthcare providers should **immediately** notify both infection control personnel at their healthcare facility and their local or state health department in the event of a PUI for 2019-nCoV. ***The Kentucky Public Health 2019 nCoV PUI Case Investigation Form can be found below.***



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January 22, 2020

Kentucky Department for Public Health

HEALTH ADVISORY

Background for Healthcare Providers:

As you may be aware, a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been identified in Wuhan, China, with over 300 human cases reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the time of this alert. Many case patients have links to a seafood-poultry market that has now been shut down. Cases have now been identified in other countries (Thailand – 2, Japan – 1, South Korea – 1, U.S. – 1); Several of these patients reported travel to Wuhan but no exposure to the implicated market, suggesting the possibility of person-to-person transmission. Several patients have died. The first case in the U.S. was reported by CDC on 1/21/20, in a person who had traveled to Wuhan.

Kentucky may receive travelers who have had recent travel to Wuhan, China. Wuhan is a city of 11M and the U.S. receives about 75,000 travelers from this city annually (avg. 1,442/week). Traveler monitoring began in China last week with temperature monitoring. CDC implemented monitoring in three major U.S. airports (LAX in Los Angeles, JFK in New York, and SFO in San Francisco) over the past weekend and is planning to expand to Atlanta and Chicago soon. All travelers are being screened for travel from or through Wuhan in the last 14 days. If the traveler reports travel to Wuhan, they are further screened for in-depth travel history, any signs/symptoms of illness, patient contact information, and their temperature is checked. Symptomatic travelers will be immediately isolated and moved to a hospital. State and municipal health departments in the U.S. will be engaged for additional follow-up of others who might have been exposed to potential case patients.

If travelers are not symptomatic at the airport screening but report travel to Wuhan in the past 14 days, the traveler will be given a card written in both Chinese and English to carry with them to provide to healthcare providers if they develop symptoms and seek healthcare. The card instructs the ill traveler to call the healthcare facility in advance of coming to the facility. Two versions of the traveler health card are attached to this advisory for your reference. At this time, CDC will not be notifying states of travelers who have a Wuhan travel history. Thus, the traveler health cards are the primary means to alert physicians about the possibility of 2019-nCoV infection in people with a travel history to Wuhan.

Clinical Guidance:

All patients should be assessed for international travel. Patients with fever, acute respiratory illness and travel to Wuhan, China in the past 14 days, or who have had close contact with someone who is under investigation for, or lab-confirmed, with 2019-nCoV, are considered a “Patient Under Investigation” (PUI) (See attached CDC PUI Guidelines).

NOTE: Due to regular circulation of various coronavirus strains in Kentucky, travel to Wuhan, exposure to other PUI, or to another confirmed case *is required* to be designated a PUI for 2019-nCoV. Please do not report cases of coronavirus that do not have the required exposure history.

For all 2019-nCoV PUI you should follow the below guidelines immediately:

- 1) Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified;
- 2) Evaluate the patient in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room;
- 3) Healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield);
- 4) Obtain a detailed travel history;
- 5) Notify your healthcare facility’s infection control personnel;
- 6) Notify the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH);
 - During regular business hours (8:00 am – 4:30 pm, M-F): Primary contacts are:
>>Stacy Davidson and >>Dimple Patel at 502-564-3261
 - After hours or on weekends: Call 888-9-REPORT (888-973-7678)
- 7) Assist with/facilitate completion of Kentucky’s 2019-nCoV case investigation form (attached) as needed.

Testing, and Specimen Collection:

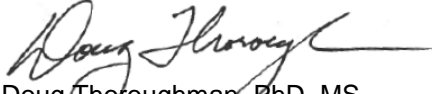
- 1) Conduct routine testing for respiratory pathogens;
- 2) Coordinate with KDPH to collect and ship specimens to CDC for 2019-nCoV testing;
 - a. All specimen submission must be approved by KDPH before shipping. Please call the KDPH Reportable Disease Section at 502-564-3261 and ask for the Novel Coronavirus contact for the day. After hours or on weekends, call 888-9-REPORT (888-973-7678);
 - b. CDC recommends collecting and testing multiple clinical specimens from different sites, including all three specimen types—lower respiratory, upper respiratory, and serum specimens;
 - c. For biosafety reasons, DO NOT perform virus isolation in cell culture or initial characterization of viral agents recovered in cultures of specimens from a PUI for 2019-nCoV;
 - d. For additional guidance or coordination of specimen submission, contact Rachel Zinner or Teresa Fields at the KDPH Division of Laboratory Services at 502-564-4446;
- 3) Additional specimen types (e.g., stool, urine, whole blood) may be collected and stored to increase the likelihood of detecting 2019-nCoV infection;
- 4) Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a PUI is identified regardless of time of symptom onset;
- 5) Additional guidance for collection, handling, and testing of clinical specimens is attached and is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

Persons under investigation who test positive for another respiratory pathogen should be clinically evaluated in consultation with public health authorities. As a result of this process, they may no longer be considered a PUI; however, this may evolve as more information becomes available on possible 2019-nCoV co-infections.

Conclusion:

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We appreciate your work on the front lines of healthcare and your diligence in identifying and reporting cases of illness with public health significance. Without your efforts, we would be several steps behind in every public health event!

Sincerely,



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Attachments:

- Traveler Health Card Example
- CDC PUI Guidelines
- 2019-nCoV Case Investigation Form
- Collection, Handling, and Testing of Clinical Specimens: CDC Guidance

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.