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Health.Alert@nh.gov
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NH-HAN 20200127



2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update # 2

Key Points and Recommendations:

1. A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was initially identified in Wuhan, China, with spread now confirmed to be widespread in China and in 15 countries, including 5 confirmed patients in the United States (WA [1], IL [1], CA [2], AZ [1]). Current case counts are 2,886 confirmed cases (2,825 in China), with 81 deaths. There are no confirmed cases in NH, although there are currently two people under investigation (PUI).
2. New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) will host a call for healthcare providers on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 12:00 pm to discuss this rapidly evolving outbreak and answer questions.

Zoom Webinar: <https://dartmouth.zoom.us/j/539667612>
Conference Call Line: 1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 539 667 612
3. Providers should immediately familiarize themselves with this developing situation and review the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>.
4. Healthcare reception and providers should ask patients presenting with a febrile or respiratory illness about travel to **Hubei Province, China** in the 14 days before symptom onset. Such patients should then immediately be instructed to don a surgical mask; placed in a private room; and managed under standard, contact, and airborne isolation, including provider use of eye protection (e.g., face shield).
5. The epidemiology is rapidly evolving. If you encounter a patient with fever or respiratory illness who presents risk factors other than travel to Hubei Province (e.g., no travel but contact to an ill person from Hubei, travel to another province in China or another affected setting), please contact the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control to discuss testing and patient management.
6. The CDC has issued a [level 3 travel warning](#), advising travelers to avoid all nonessential travel to Hubei Province, China. CDC has also issued a [level 2 travel alert](#) advising that travelers to the rest of China practice enhanced precautions. Given expansion of this outbreak within China, and local control measures being put in place by Chinese officials, travelers may consider postponing travel to other parts of China outside Hubei province until we better understand the extent of the outbreak and risk.
7. Any suspect cases should be reported immediately to the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control by calling 603-271-4496 (after hours 603-271-5300).

Background/Situation

We continue to monitor the novel coronavirus (nCoV-2019) outbreak that was initially identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Human-to-human transmission has been confirmed and latest case counts are 2,886 confirmed cases, with 81 related deaths. The U.S., Canada, France, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Macau, Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam and Nepal have confirmed cases. The CDC expanded screening of passengers on flights from Wuhan, China to five major airports: Atlanta (ATL), Chicago (ORD), Los Angeles, (LAX) New York city (JFK), and San Francisco (SFO).

We recommend healthcare providers and facilities continue to conduct travel screening, and implement standard, contact, and airborne isolation in any patients with a fever or respiratory illness who report travel to Hubei Province China within 14 days of symptom onset. This is an evolving situation, recommendations are likely to change as we learn more, and we will update you accordingly.

A conference call is scheduled to provide updated information for healthcare facilities and answer questions:

Date: January 29, 2020
Time: 12:00 pm (noontime)
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Clinical Features

Signs and symptoms of 2019-nCoV illness have included fever, cough, and difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. Preliminary information suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Older adults and people with underlying health conditions may be at higher risk of severe illness. Characteristics of this novel coronavirus and full spectrum of disease are still unclear.

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Adnela Alic at (603) 271-7499 or email Adnela.Alic@dhhs.nh.gov.

Additional Information

- Novel Coronavirus 2019, Wuhan China: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>
- Information for Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>
- WHO, Coronavirus: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- Prior NH DPHS Health Alert Message (1/19/2020): <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/novel-coronavirus.pdf>

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From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: None