



MEDIC ONE



2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

January 27th, 2020

Thurston County Providers:

As with any early recommendations associated with a novel infectious disease, Medic One is conscious of the emerging, and rapidly evolving, nature of the information being disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and local public health agencies. In an effort to streamline messaging for providers, this brief synopsis, including healthcare provider PPE recommendations, may help to clear any confusion in patient identification surrounding the process moving forward. As always, your agency's infectious disease policy and procedures should be followed.

Recommendations:

1. As with any infectious disease, whether it be the common cold, influenza, or 2019-nCoV, using universal precautions when caring for all patients suspected of viral or bacterial infections is key to protecting you, your coworkers, and your loved ones.
2. PPE should include gloves, goggles, and N95 masks. At this time, the virus appears not to be spread through airborne transmission and is isolated to droplets.
3. Mask patients that you suspect of any viral or bacterial illness and use NRB masks for those that need to be treated with oxygen.
4. Remember to thoroughly wash hands with soap and water following interactions with ANY patient. Utilization of hand sanitizer is also recommended.
5. Wash all clothing following any interaction with patients you suspect of having contracted an infectious disease.

With regard to 2019 - nCoV, currently described symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In the event that your history taking reveals that your patient has traveled to China in the past 14 days **AND** they are exhibiting symptoms consistent with a respiratory infection, **immediately** do the following:

1. Notify the Base Station Hospital of your patient and the situation
2. Transport the patient, as directed by medical control
3. Notify your command and ALL personnel on scene of the situation prior to patient transport. Attempt to minimize any further provider/ personnel exposure.
 - a. Transporting crews **shall record all provider and personnel names** that are on scene or potentially exposed in the ePCR
 - b. The transporting crew, along with command, shall report the potential exposure, and those personnel who were on scene, to PSPH **and** Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
 - i. From the hours of 08:00 – 17:00 Monday through Friday, please contact Thurston County Public Health and Social Services via 360-867-2500
 - ii. For all notifications outside of regular business hours, please contact the duty officer for public health via a TCOMM request.
 - c. ALL apparatus on scene are to be thoroughly disinfected prior to their return to service



MEDIC ONE



Situation:

“CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed “2019-nCoV”) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. Chinese health officials have reported hundreds of infections with 2019-nCoV in China, including outside of Hubei Province. Infections with 2019-nCoV also are being reported in a growing number of countries internationally, including the United States, where the first 2019-nCoV infection was detected in a traveler returning from Wuhan on January 21, 2020.”

As many of you know, the first case of 2019-nCoV was self-reported in Everett, WA, and that patient is currently under surveillance at Providence Regional Medical Center. The patient self-reported his illness and returned prior to the implementation of screenings in the U.S. Currently, all individuals returning from Wuhan and entering the US are being redirected to 5 airports (SFO in San Francisco, JFK in New York, LAX in Los Angeles, ORD in Chicago, and ATL in Atlanta) for screening and will be followed by US Public Health Services, as well as, state and local public health agencies. As of January 26th, 2020, 5 U.S. travelers have been identified as having contracted the virus. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/01/24/799208865/a-second-u-s-case-of-wuhan-coronavirus-is-confirmed>

“Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting person-to-person spread is occurring. At this time, it’s unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

Both MERS and SARS have been known to cause severe illness in people. The situation with regard to 2019-nCoV is still unclear. While severe illness, including illness resulting in a number of deaths has been reported in China, other patients have had milder illness and been discharged.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html#risk-assessment>

Information:

“Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS and SARS.

When person-to-person spread has occurred with MERS and SARS, it is **thought to have happened via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes**, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Spread of MERS and SARS between people has generally occurred between close contacts. Past MERS and SARS outbreaks have been complex, requiring comprehensive public health responses.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html#risk-assessment>

Continuously Evolving:

AS A FINAL REMINDER, THIS IS AN EVOLVING SITUATION THAT WILL PRODUCE WEEKLY, IF NOT DAILY UPDATES. In connection with this letter is the most recent guidance from the EMS Program Manager with the Washington



MEDIC ONE



State Department of Health. In the event that you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Medic One.

Sincerely,
Dr. Larry Fontanilla, Jr.
Thurston County MPD

Ben Miller-Todd
ALS Program Manager