



Yakima Health District

Provider Alert

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Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov) Respiratory Infection

Summary: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities first identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in more than a thousand confirmed human infections in China, including cases outside Wuhan City. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the United States.

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](#). Past MERS and SARS outbreaks have been complex, requiring comprehensive public health responses.

Many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China have reported 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. Based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is deemed to be low at this time.

The Yakima Health District and Washington State Department of Health will continue to provide updated information and recommendations as this outbreak continues to evolve.

Requested Actions

- Obtain a detailed travel history on ALL patients being evaluated for fever and acute respiratory illness.
- Use the assessment criteria on the Interim 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) assessment form to determine if Coronavirus should be included in the differential diagnosis and follow instructions provided.
- **Immediately notify both infection control personnel at your healthcare facility and the Yakima Health District at 509-249-6541 in the event of a suspected case of 2019-nCoV.**
- Prepare to collect lower respiratory, upper respiratory and serum specimens. Stool and urine may also be collected. Specimens should be refrigerated. Public health will provide guidance and facilitation regarding specimen collection, storage, and shipping.



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- **Lower Respiratory Specimen:** expectorated sputum OR 2-3mL bronchoalveolar lavage specimen OR tracheal aspirate
- **Upper Respiratory Specimen:** nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab with synthetic fiber swab with plastic shaft (such as Dacron). Place in viral transport media
- **Serum:** 1 tube (5-10mL) whole blood in serum separator tube. Store upright for 30 minutes and centrifuge for 10 minutes before removing serum
- **Urine and Stool:** collect and store in sterile containers, refrigerate until shipping

Additional Resources

Information for Healthcare Professionals

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus/Resources>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>

Interim Guidance for Preventing Transmission in Homes and Communities

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

Guidance for Travelers

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/novel-coronavirus-china>

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