

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Detection and Reporting of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

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The Florida Department of Health would like to update health care providers and laboratories on the detection and reporting of novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) currently causing an outbreak of respiratory illness that originated in China. The Department is collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct surveillance for persons who may have been exposed to or infected with 2019-nCoV while traveling to Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and arrange for confirmatory testing.

As of January 26, 2020, five 2019-nCoV infections have been confirmed in the United States. None have been identified in Florida. Since the outbreak began in December, over 6,000 confirmed cases have been reported in China and the number is rising. Please review the latest CDC Health Alert Network Update for more details: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/>.

Health care providers should obtain a detailed international travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. Health care providers are asked to report to their county health department (FloridaHealth.gov/chdepcontact) any patient who meets the criteria below.

Persons in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a person under investigation (PUI) in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

- 1) Fever¹ AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
–and in the last 14 days before symptom onset,
 - History of travel from Wuhan City, Hubei Province, Chinaor
 - Close contact² with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
- 2) Fever¹ OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
–and in the last 14 days before symptom onset,
 - Close contact² with an ill, laboratory-confirmed, 2019-nCoV patient.

Health care providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their health care facility and their county health department (FloridaHealth.gov/chdepcontact) if they identify a PUI for 2019-nCoV. Patient details should be evaluated and discussed with county health departments on a case-by-case basis if their clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure).

Health Care Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations

CDC currently recommends a cautious approach to patients under investigation for 2019-nCoV. Such patients should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified. They should be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available. Health care personnel entering the room should use contact and airborne precautions, including use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).

Hospital and Health Care Professional Preparedness

The Department recommends that hospitals and health care professionals prepare to identify and treat patients with novel coronavirus. The CDC has developed preparedness checklists to guide this effort. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>

Additional Resources

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html

¹Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgment should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

²Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV. Close contact is defined as:

- a) Being within approximately six feet (two meters), or within the room or care area, of a 2019-nCoV case for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case.
or
- b) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended PPE.