2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Talking Points
Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Overview
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are closely monitoring an on-going outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China. Cases have been identified in multiple countries, including the United States.
The below talking points are for internal use to serve as a guideline on ANA’s messaging for answering the media or members of the press on several topics, including ANA’s position, approaches and supporting continued monitoring and surveillance.

Contact
(For Internal Use Only)
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ANA Position
The American Nurses Association (ANA) affirms the current CDC Guidelines on the interim guidance for healthcare professionals as the CDC continues to monitor the on-going outbreak of 2019-nCoV and supports ongoing efforts in the research and development of diagnostic criteria and tools, therapeutic treatment, and prevention to minimize further risk to the global population’s health.

Key Highlights
• The immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time.
• Person-to-person spread has not occurred in the US
• Identified cases within the US are travel related
• This is a rapidly evolving situation. ANA will continue to provide updates as they become available from key public health resources including the CDC and WHO.
• It is flu and respiratory disease season. The ANA affirms the CDC’s recommendation to get your flu vaccine, take flu antivirals if prescribed, stay home when sick, and take everyday preventative actions to stop the spread of germs such as hand washing and covering your cough and sneeze.
What is Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

- Coronaviruses are not a new family of viruses.
- Coronaviruses are common in humans and different species of animals including camels, cattle, cats, and bats.
- Rarely do animal coronaviruses evolve and spread to people.
- There are multiple strains that can cause mild respiratory symptoms or even the common cold.
- In years’ prior, other strains have been associated with SARS and MERS.
- Early cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus identified a link to a large seafood and live animal market suggesting emergence from an animal reservoir and animal-to-person spread. Subsequent patients reporting no exposure to animal markets indicates person-to-person transmission.
- It has been determined that transmission of 2019-nCoV can occur person-to-person, but it is unclear how and how easily 2019-nCoV is transmitted.
- Symptoms associated with 2019-nCoV include mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- The CDC believes the incubation period lasts 2-14 days after exposure based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of MERS viruses. Spread during the incubation period remains unknown.
- At this time, limited information is available on the full scope of the illness associated with 2019-nCoV.
- Currently there is no vaccine available to consumers.

What Nurses Need to Know

1. **Preparedness, Early Identification, and Notification are Key**

   Develop a preparedness plan that provides infection control procedures and protocols for the early identification and care of patients with symptoms associated with 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Educate ALL staff on infection control procedures and protocols.
   - Develop inpatient, ambulatory, and home care policies and procedures that are in line with current CDC guidelines for 2019-nCoV
   - Provide training to all personnel on screening and isolation procedures
   - Provide updated training and guidelines on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as the use of gloves, gowns, masks, eye protection, and a face shield
   - Display clear signage with instructions for the use of PPE
   - Ensure consistent use of proper hand hygiene, standard precautions, contact precautions, and airborne precautions, along with the proper use of a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-Approved N-95 respirator or higher
Clearly display signage for patients that lists symptoms and instructions to wear a face mask before entering the healthcare facility if symptoms are present.

Incorporate assessment questions to document a detailed travel history when patients present with fever, cough, or respiratory illness. Consider 2019-nCoV if the patient traveled to Wuhan, China on or after 12/1/19 or has had contact with a person who has traveled to Wuhan, China on or after 12/1/19.

Identify, in advance, airborne infection isolation rooms (AIIR) or negative pressure rooms, for quarantine and screening.

Outline staffing protocols to facilitate care of patients with 2019-nCoV and to minimize patient-to-patient transmission.

Have available for immediate notification of suspected cases the infection control personnel at your facility and the local and state health department. Click here for additional Recommendations for Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection and the fillable 2019-nCov PUI case investigation form. This will aid in contact tracking and monitoring the spread of the virus.

For Patients Under Investigation (PUI), follow the Criteria to Guide Evaluation of PUI for 2019-nCoV

2. Isolation, Quarantine, Monitoring, and Hospitalization - Prevention of the spread of 2019-nCoV to staff and patients

The CDC recommends several steps for identification and maintenance of 2019-nCoV PUI along with detailed guidelines for isolation precautions to prevent transmission. At this time, the exact mode(s) of transmission remain undetermined, but person-to-person transmission has been identified.

- Have masks available for PUI to don before entering the healthcare facility
- Once identified, isolate the patient to airborne infection isolation rooms (AIIR) or negative pressure room and keep the door closed. Conduct the assessment in this room.
- Healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (goggles or a face shield)
- Don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) before entering the room
- Have guidelines for the proper use of PPE displayed throughout the healthcare facility
- Notify your infection control personnel and the local and state health department of suspected cases

3. Community Interaction - Patient Education and Prevention

Per the CDC, it is known that coronavirus is part of a large family of viruses that can cause illness in people and animals. While the mode(s) of transmission of 2019 Novel Coronavirus remain
under investigation, the CDC provides the following interim guidance to help prevent 2019-nCoV from spreading among people in homes and communities:

- Stay home except to get medical care, do not use public transportation or taxis
- Call first before visiting your healthcare provider to notify of the need for evaluation for 2019-nCoV. Follow the instructions provided by your healthcare team.
- Separate yourself from other people in your home, utilize a separate bathroom
- Wear a facemask
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid sharing household items
- Monitor your symptoms
- For a full list of guidelines and recommended actions for preventing the spread of Coronavirus visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html

Information for Individuals Traveling
The CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Wuhan, China. If you must travel, or if you have traveled to Wuhan in the last 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, the CDC outlines the following recommendations to minimize your risk https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-wuhan-china

Supporting Research and Information
For best practice guidelines on infection control, standard precautions for all patient care and transmission-based precautions, visit:
Infection Control Basics
https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/index.html
Standard Precautions
https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/standard-precautions.html
Transmission-Based Precautions
https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html
Sequence for Putting on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/PPE-Sequence-508.pdf

Three Key Factors Required for a Respirator to be Effective
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/KeyFactorsRequiedResp01042018-508.pdf
Important Steps for Using NIOSH-Approved N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators

Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Interim Guidance for Preventing 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities

Clinical Criteria for evaluation of 2019-nCoV

Link to Local health department
https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory

Link to State Health Department
https://www.cste.org/page/StateEpi