Update and Guidance on Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in China

A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and it continues to expand. This novel coronavirus, along with MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, belong to a large family of viruses, known as Coronaviridae.

As of Jan. 29, 2020, there have been reports of more than 6,000 confirmed human infections in China with more than 130 reported deaths. Additionally, over 70 cases have been exported to several other countries, including five confirmed cases in the United States. Indiana currently has one person under investigation for novel coronavirus infection.

Following implementation of travel restrictions from Wuhan by Chinese authorities, there are no more direct flights from Wuhan to the United States; however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is screening all travelers coming to the United States from China at 20 international airports across the country that have quarantine stations. This does not include Indianapolis International Airport.

Public health officials and healthcare providers should consider a novel coronavirus infection as a potential etiology among travelers returning from China with a respiratory illness, particularly if there was any close contact with an ill suspected or laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient. CDC criteria to evaluate patients can be seen below:

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<th>Clinical Features</th>
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<th>Epidemiologic Risk</th>
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| Fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) | and | In the last 14 days before symptom onset, a history of travel from Wuhan City, China.  
- or -  
In the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill. |
| Fever or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) | and | In the last 14 days, close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient. |

If novel coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) infection is suspected in a patient (as noted above), healthcare providers should immediately notify their local public health department or the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) at (317) 233-7125 during normal business hours for consultation and testing authorization. For assistance after hours or on the weekends, contact (317) 233-1325 to reach the epidemiologist on call.
ISDH has updated previously-published algorithms for evaluating suspected 2019-nCoV patients. The updated algorithm is attached to this alert and available at [https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm](https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm).

Suspected cases of 2019-nCoV must meet both the clinical features and epidemiological risk criteria noted in the algorithm for specimens to be authorized for testing.

If testing is authorized, specimens should be collected from the following:

I. Lower respiratory tract (bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, or sputum)
II. Upper respiratory tract (a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab AND oropharyngeal swab (OP))
III. Serum

If possible, additional specimen types (e.g., stool, urine) should be collected and should be stored initially until a decision is made by CDC whether additional specimen sources should be tested. Specimens should be obtained and placed into viral transport medium and transported to the ISDH Laboratory for testing. Specimen collection and submission instructions and forms for the ISDH Laboratory can be found under the “Information for Laboratories” section on the ISDH Novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) webpage. For more information on specimen collection, submission, and testing, please visit [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html) or contact Brian Pope, ISDH Virology Lab Supervisor at 317-921-5843 or Dr. Nicolas Epie, ISDH Virology Division Director at 317-921-5555 for ISDH-specific questions. For specimen authorization, please contact the Epidemiology Resource Center at 317-233-7125.

An infographic to share with prevention measures for anyone who has had close contact with someone who is confirmed to have or is being evaluated for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection is also attached and available on the [webpage](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html). For further interim guidance on criteria to guide evaluation of persons under investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV, reporting and specimen collection recommendations, and infection prevention and control measures, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html).

The CDC will host a Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call from 2-3 p.m. ET on Friday, Jan. 31, to discuss 2019-nCoV interim guidance for clinicians. Healthcare providers are encouraged to attend. Additional information about the call is available at [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_013120.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_013120.asp).

Please visit the ISDH Novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) [webpage](https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm) for updated news and guidance on the 2019 n-CoV outbreak. This webpage will be updated weekly or as new information becomes available. For additional epidemiology questions regarding 2019-nCoV, please contact the ISDH Epidemiology Resource Center at 317-233-7125 or e-mail [epiresource@isdh.in.gov](mailto:epiresource@isdh.in.gov).