



Advisory 20-02: Emergence of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

To: All Providers

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The emergence of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from the City of Wuhan, China and rapidly expanding across other regions represents our newest public health threat. Human-to-human transmission is reported, and the United States had its first confirmed case as of 21-January.

Although details of this particular virus are still being learned, there are some important considerations for first responders:

- 2019-nCoV may cause symptoms ranging from mild upper respiratory infection to severe pneumonia. There are more than 300 cases reported worldwide, with at least six deaths.
- Human-to-human transmission is possible.
- Like most viruses, the most important prevention technique is strict hand hygiene and disinfection of patient care equipment and surfaces.

Although all providers should be screening patients for an acute onset of a respiratory illness associated with fever OR cough OR shortness of breath and taking proper precautions (universal precautions, face mask on patient when appropriate) during this flu season; responders are strongly encouraged to also ask the patient if they have had any recent travel to China.

Patients with fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath with travel to China in the last 14 days, or exposure to a patient known to have 2019-nCoV should result in immediate responder donning of an N95 mask. Gowns and eye protection should be worn if exposure to sputum or respiratory secretions are possible. If clinically appropriate, place a surgical mask on the patient. PRIOR to hospital arrival, please contact the respective Medical Control to advise of the patient's symptoms and travel history to aid in making arrangements for patient transfer with minimal exposure to others.

As conventional flu illnesses continue to rise, it remains critical to maintain vigilance and exercise proper hand hygiene and disinfection processes. As more information comes forth from the CDC and other sources, additional guidance will be provided.

With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

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