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Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health

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Health Advisory:

Interim Clinical Guidance for Managing Patients Who May Have Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update its Situation Summary on the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) initially identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. This updated Situation Summary is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

As of March 4, 2020, CDC has expanded their criteria for evaluating and reporting patient under investigation (PUI). Currently, there is a gap in lab testing capacity to meet this need, as the State of California does not have enough testing kits to meet the expanded PUI definition. Notification will occur when testing capabilities expand and more test kits are available. In the interim, please continue to follow the PUI criteria below.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers include:

- Utilize the [Interim 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-2019\) Provider Guidance](#): Evaluating Persons with Fever and Respiratory Illness to assess potential Persons Under Investigation (PUI) and determine if they meet testing criteria for COVID-2019.
- Healthcare providers should obtain a travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness over the phone (if possible) and at reception.
- Healthcare providers should display [travel posters in their points of entry](#).

Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a patient under investigation (PUI) in association with the outbreak of COVID-19:

- 1) Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza) with or without epidemiologic risk factors.
-OR-
- 2) Healthcare workers exposed to lab-confirmed COVID-19 with fever or acute lower respiratory illness requiring hospitalization.
-OR-
- 3) Elderly (>65y/o) patients who live in congregate living setting with fever or symptoms of lower respiratory illness and are PCR negative for other respiratory pathogens.

Patients should be evaluated using the “Interim 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Provider Guidance: Evaluating Persons with Fever and Respiratory Illness”. If criteria is met or is uncertain, discuss with Napa County Communicable Disease Control (707-253-4231) to determine appropriate testing process. **It is imperative that discussion with Napa County Communicable Disease Control occurs prior to patient discharge.**

Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients Under Investigation for COVID-19

- Although the transmission dynamics have yet to be determined, CDC currently recommends a cautious approach to patients under investigation for 2019-nCoV (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>).
- Such patients should be immediately masked with a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be placed in airborne isolation. If airborne isolation is not available, place the patient in a private room with the door closed.
- Healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).
- Immediately notify your healthcare facility’s infection control personnel and Napa County Communicable Disease Control (707) 253-4231 for guidance on exposures.

For More Information

More information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or by calling 800-CDC-INFO | (800-232-4636) | TTY: (888) 232-6348. Healthcare providers can also contact Napa County Public Health at (707) 253-4231 or go to our website at <https://www.countyofnapa.org/541/Communicable-Diseases>.

This guidance will be updated as more information becomes available.

In the meantime, we continue to strongly urge providers to vaccinate for influenza as California continues to see increasing numbers of cases.

Program Contact Information:

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