Update on the 2019-nCoV Outbreak

Oklahoma City County Health Department is closely monitoring the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that was first identified in Wuhan City, China. As a new emerging virus and rapidly evolving situation, new information about the outbreak’s characterization will be provided to state/local health agencies and public health partners. **While CDC considers this is a very serious public health threat, based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is considered low at this time.** This report provides the most current information on the situation that was made available by January 27th, 2020:

**Case Counts**
- More than 2,700 confirmed cases and 82 deaths in mainland China; more than 60 cases confirmed from 16 other counties.
- In the United States, 110 individuals from 26 states are under investigation for suspected 2019-nCoV infection.
  - 5 of those confirmed to have the virus in the following states: Washington, California, Arizona and Illinois.
  - 73 individuals pending lab confirmation.

**Symptoms and Transmission**
- Patients with confirmed 2019-nCoV infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath
- CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in 2-14 days after exposure.
- It was initially believed that 2019-nCov was linked to a seafood market in Wuhan City, suggesting an animal-to-human spread. However, there is now evidence of human-to-human spread, possibly by respiratory droplets.
- In the United States, there has been no evidence of human-to-human spread.
- Current findings suggest that patients are contagious once they exhibit symptoms.

**Note:** As the epidemiological investigation continues, information regarding 2019-nCoV disease process is subject to change.

Please remember to stay healthy this flu season by getting your shot. Don’t let the flu bug you! Learn more at [https://www.occhd.org/flu](https://www.occhd.org/flu)
Preventative Measures

- There is currently no vaccine for 2019-CoV infection, but the CDC recommends everyday prevention actions used to help protect against respiratory illness. This includes:
  - Frequent handwashing with soap for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- In addition to the actions listed above, travelers to China should also:
  - Discuss travel to China with their healthcare provider. Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues may be at risk for more severe disease.
  - Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Although there are no confirmed cases in Oklahoma, healthcare providers and facilities should use this opportunity to review their respective pandemic response plan and the CDC’s Interim Guidance for Healthcare Professionals and Infection Control for 2019-nCoV outbreak.

Person Under Investigation (PUI)

Per CDC’s guidelines, patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Wuhan City, China:

1. Fever 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, China
   - Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
2. Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and in the last 14 days before symptom onset:
   - Close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

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Traveler Health Screening in U.S. Major Airports

CDC has begun entry screening of passengers on direct and connecting flights from Wuhan, China to five major airports: Atlanta (ATL), Chicago (ORD), Los Angeles, (LAX) New York city (JFK), and San Francisco (SFO):

- Travelers that exhibit symptoms associated with the outbreak will undergo more screening by medical quarantine officers. Based on those screening findings, said individuals may be escorted and safely transported to designated facilities for further medical evaluation.

- Recent travelers that are cleared through the airport health screening are provided on symptoms to watch and how to safely contact health providers if they begin to develop symptoms.

Travel Advisories

Chinese authorities have imposed strict travel restrictions in the area around Wuhan, preventing individuals from entering or exiting parts of Hubei province. In addition to China’s travel restrictions, the U.S Department of State and the CDC have issued the following travel advisories in response to the 2019-nCoV Outbreak.

State Department

As of January 23rd, 2020, there is a Level 2 Travel Advisory for China, urging travelers to exercise increased caution. Additionally, there is a level 4 travel advisory for the Hubei Province, advising no travel to the province and Wuhan City.

Center for Disease Control

As of January 26th 2020, the CDC has issued a Warning Level 3 Alert, which recommends avoiding all non-essential travel to Hubei Province, China, including Wuhan.

Note: Healthcare providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their healthcare facility and OCCHD Epidemiology at 405-425-4437 in the event of a PUI for 2019-nCoV. OCCHD Epidemiology is also available for any questions or concerns regarding this outbreak as well.