

Update on the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

January 31 2020, Friday

Officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to monitor the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, which began in December. More than 400 human infections have been confirmed, including in health care workers.

Symptoms can range from mild upper respiratory symptoms to respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation. (Symptoms are very similar to those of the flu and other seasonal ailments; this virus should be suspected when these symptoms are combined with a recent history of travel to affected areas or close contact with a 2019-nCoV patient.) Person-to-person spread is occurring, although it is unclear how easily the virus is being transmitted. The following recommendations should be followed to avoid potential transmission to yourself or other patients:

1. **IDENTIFY** potential cases by using the [Infectious Disease \(Travel\) Screening Tool](#) on **ALL** patients. Ask about international travel in the previous 21 days, including travel to Wuhan, China, or any other area with laboratory-confirmed cases. Up-to-date information about this virus can be found on the CDC [website](#).
2. **ISOLATE** patients suspected of having the 2019 novel coronavirus infection by immediately giving them a surgical mask and moving them to an airborne infection isolation room. If an airborne infection isolation room is not available, move the patient to a private room and close the door. Health care workers entering the room to evaluate the patient should wear a gown, gloves, N95 respirator, and face shield. Patients should be placed on contact and airborne isolation precautions in addition to standard precautions.
3. **INFORM** the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) about any patient who is suspected of having this infection after a full assessment by a practitioner. The contact number is (866) 692-3641 for the NYC DOHMH Provider Access Line. Notify your respective hospital's Infection Prevention Department, as well.
4. Diagnostic testing of any patient who has been deemed as high risk for being infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus can only be done through the CDC. Instructions for testing can be found [here](#).

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