

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 28, 2020**

**Health Advisory  
Interim Guidance on Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

**Guidance is constantly being updated, please make sure read the most up-to-date communication.**

The nCoV-2019 outbreak in China continues to evolve and California is prepared for more cases that may arise. CDPH considers this a very important public health event: and they are closely monitoring the situation. See Table 1 below for current case counts and deaths.

Table 1: Tracking Coronavirus Cases and Deaths Created: January 28, 2020 at 0818 PST		
	Cases	Deaths
International	4,679	106
United States	5	0
California	2	0
Merced County	0	0

Source: <https://bnonews.com/index.php/2020/01/the-latest-coronavirus-cases/>

Currently, the immediate health risk from nCoV 2019 to the general public in California is low.

**Recommendations for Health Care Providers**

CDC currently recommends a cautious approach to patients under investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus<sup>1</sup>. Such patients should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available. Healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).

**Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV**

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever <b>and</b> symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	<b>and</b>	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 <b>or</b> symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	<b>and</b>	In the last 14 days, close contact with an ill, laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fclinical-criteria.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fclinical-criteria.html)

It is very important for providers to obtain travel history from patients who present with the above symptoms. If you suspect nCoV, immediately notify your healthcare facility's infection control personnel and local health department: during business hours contact **(209) 381-1020**. If after hours, contact for emergency notifications call the EMS Duty Officer at **(209) 725-7011**.

- For additional infection control practices visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>
- For updated information for Health Care Professionals visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>
- Keep in mind that this situation is evolving with new information every day, for updated information please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- For more local information/questions/guidance (*not* to report a suspected case), call the Department of Public Health nCoV hotline: (209) 381-1180.

**Attached to this Advisory, please find:**

- Guidance on Specimen Collection
- Example Signage for Healthcare Facilities

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Health Information:** Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature