



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

January 21, 2020

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE AND INTERIM GUIDANCE ON  
OUTBREAK OF 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) IN  
WUHAN, CHINA**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

An outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China has been developing since December 2019. This outbreak now includes over 300 confirmed infections and several deaths in China with confirmed cases also in Thailand, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States (one case in Washington State). While human-to-human transmission appears limited and the severity of illness appears less than SARS, the situation continues to evolve, and the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is monitoring closely. There are *no direct flights from Wuhan, China to Hawaii*; however, residents/visitors from China may still enter our state from other U.S. or international ports of entry. The following recommendations are provided to facilitate management of such persons who may be ill:

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

Please obtain a detailed travel history for all patients. Anyone meeting the following CDC criteria<sup>1</sup> should be reported immediately to HDOH by phone (number listed below).

<b>Clinical Features</b>	<b>&amp;</b>	<b>Epidemiologic Risk</b>
Fever <b>and</b> symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	and	In the last 14 days before symptom onset, history of travel from Wuhan City, China. – or – In the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact <sup>2</sup> with a person under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
Fever <b>or</b> symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	and	In the last 14 days, close contact <sup>2</sup> with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

**Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection**

Please collect multiple clinical specimens from different sites:

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>

<sup>2</sup>Close contact is defined as—

a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters), or within the room or care area, of a novel coronavirus case for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case.  
– or –

b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

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- Lower respiratory (at least sputum)
- Upper respiratory (two [2] nasopharyngeal [NP] specimens)
- Serum

Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a PUI is identified regardless of time of symptom onset and sent directly to the State Laboratories Division (SLD). At this time, diagnostic testing for 2019-nCoV can be conducted *only* at CDC. A positive result on commercially available respiratory virus panels is NOT indicative of suspected 2019-nCoV infection.

### **Interim Healthcare Infection Control Recommendations**

Although the transmission dynamics have yet to be determined, per CDC recommendations:

- Place surgical mask on all PUI patients and place in a private room with 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).

For additional infection control practice resources, see CDC's Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings (<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html>).

***Providers should notify infection control personnel and HDOH's Disease Outbreak Control Division immediately if any patients meet PUI criteria for 2019-nCoV.***

If you have any questions or need to report a PUI, please contact HDOH at one of the numbers below.

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line)..... (808) 586-4586  
Maui District Health Office..... (808) 984-8213  
Kauai District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563  
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo)..... (808) 933-0912  
Big Island District Health Office (Kona)..... (808) 322-4877  
After hours on Oahu..... (808) 600-3625  
After hours on neighbor islands.....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We will continue to keep you apprised and provide updated guidelines as needed and as this situation evolves. Thank you for your help in protecting our community.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP  
State Epidemiologist

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