



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

February 3, 2020

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE AND GUIDANCE ON OUTBREAK OF
2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

We are providing interim guidance for clinicians to assist in identifying and assessing patients who may be infected with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) originally detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

Clinicians should ask:

- Does the person have fever or symptoms of lower respiratory infection, such as cough or shortness of breath?

AND

- Has the patient traveled to mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset?

OR

- Has the patient had close contact with a person confirmed with 2019-nCoV infection?

If both exposure and illness are present:

- Place a facemask on the patient and isolate in a private room
- Assess clinical status
- Inform your facility's infection control personnel
- If person meets Patients Under Investigation (PUI) criteria (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>), **inform the Hawaii Department of Health immediately** (see numbers below) and **collect two (2) nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens as soon as possible**
 - Send one (1) specimen for respiratory viral panel testing at your clinical lab
 - Send one (1) specimen to SLD to be tested for 2019-nCoV

See the attached flowchart and laboratory specimen collection and processing guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>) for further information.

This guidance is based on current knowledge of the characteristics of clinical illness and the geographic distribution of current cases. However, as you are aware, **this is a rapidly evolving situation**, subject to change as more information/data becomes available. To ensure you are accessing the latest information, please visit HDOH's clinicians' page at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/for-healthcare-providers/news-updates/> or the Centers for Disease

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Control and Prevention 2019 Novel Coronavirus website at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

As this international outbreak continues to evolve, it is critical that all healthcare providers continue to emphasize the importance to patients and the public of basic respiratory disease prevention and infection control practices including:

- Get your flu shot.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- 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 using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

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. If you know providers who are not receiving this medical advisory directly and would like to be added to our distribution list, please email DOH.EPI1 with name, contact email and telephone, and medical specialty.

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 appreciate your assistance in protecting our community.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist

Attachment

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