**Health Alert Update**  
**February 14, 2020**  
**2019 Novel Coronavirus Infectious Disease (COVID-19)**

**SUMMARY:**  
The information contained in this Health Alert supersedes guidance contained in the January 22nd and 31st Health Alerts (substantive changes highlighted).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring an outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus ([2019 Coronavirus Infectious Disease or COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)) that started in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Cases have been confirmed in other parts of China, including a small number in the United States and California. All of the US cases to date had recent travel history to China except two, who were close contacts of symptomatic, confirmed cases.

As of February 2, 2020, only US citizens, permanent residents, and family members of US citizens returning from China are allowed entry into the US. A traveler who is symptomatic or who visited Wuhan/Hubei Province will serve a 14-day, mandatory quarantine. Asymptomatic travelers who visited mainland China (but not Wuhan or Hubei) are instructed to home quarantine for 14 days and to avoid school, work, public transit, and public gatherings. Contra Costa Public Health is monitoring community members under home quarantine. Please note that mainland China does not include Hong Kong or Macau.

COVID-19 testing is only available through the CDC via Contra Costa Public Health. Commercial lab tests, including respiratory panels, can only detect coronavirus 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1, which are not COVID-19. The California Department of Public Health will be able to provide COVID-19 testing in the near future, via Contra Costa Public Health.

Local health care providers should immediately contact Contra Costa Public Health (925) 313-6740 to notify us of patients who meet the criteria in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>Epidemiologic Risk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>A history of travel from Hubei Province, China within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing can be considered for severely ill, hospitalized individuals with lower respiratory illness and no alternate etiology identified</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Recent travel or COVID-19 exposure history is equivocal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing can be considered for recent travelers from China with fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) if not hospitalized.</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset.</td>
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Contra Costa Public Health, the California Department of Public Health, and the CDC will determine if the patient meets the current case criteria for COVID-19 and needs COVID-19 testing. This is an evolving
situation and new developments will likely lead to revised guidance. Please visit and bookmark cchealth.org/providers for the latest COVID-19 information and guidance.

**Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:**


2. **Screen** for travel history on all patients with potentially infectious disease, especially those with fever and acute respiratory illness. Place visible [signage](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html) requesting visitors with a fever and recent travel to China to notify a hospital staff member.

3. **Immediately isolate** patients reporting fever (>100.4°F or >38°C) **AND** lower respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND** travel to China within 14 days prior to illness.
   
   a. Place surgical mask on patient and place patient in private room with door closed (optimally, a negative-pressure, airborne isolation room).
   
   b. Implement all of the infection control procedures listed below for healthcare workers:
      
      - Standard precautions **AND**
      
      - Contact precautions (gloves, gown) **AND**
      
      - Airborne precautions (N95 mask or PAPR) **AND**
      
      - Eye protection (face shield or goggles)

4. **Immediately report** the patient to Contra Costa Public Health at (925) 313-6740, or after hours, call Sheriff’s Dispatch at (925) 646-2441 and ask for the Health Officer On-call. PLEASE CALL TO REPORT. DO NOT FAX.

**Additional Resources:**

- California Department of Public Health’s Coronavirus Sign in [English](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx), [Spanish](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx), and [Mandarin](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx)


