

Situation: Cluster of pneumonia in China ***UPDATE***

Background: An outbreak of pneumonia has been identified in Wuhan, Hubei province, China and a novel coronavirus, now known as 2019-nCoV, has been identified as the cause. As of 1/21/20, the number of persons reported ill has significantly expanded and a small number of ill persons have been cared for in Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and the US (state of Washington) after travel from Wuhan, China. Human-to-human transmission is suspected, including transmission to healthcare staff, but the mode of transmission is unclear.

Assessment: Patients may present to the Emergency Department with acute respiratory tract infections, who have traveled recently to the Wuhan, China, or who have been exposed to persons infected with 2019-nCoV.

Recommendations: The follow these actions:

Clinical Staff

1. As part of a standard medical exam, determine the patient's travel history for an individual presenting with an acute respiratory tract infection.
2. A patient with a history of travel to the Wuhan, China within 14 days prior to the onset of illness OR who had close contact of a person under investigation for 2019-nCoV illness, AND presenting with an acute respiratory tract infection must:
 - a. Don a mask
 - b. Be placed immediately in a negative pressure room. If a negative pressure room is not available, the patient must be isolated in a room with the door closed, where the patient will continue to wear a mask.
 - c. Be cared for using Airborne and Contact Precautions in addition to Standard Precautions, including the use of a face shield or other protective eyewear

3. Immediately notify the Infection Control Office/Department

Infection Control personnel:

1. Support clinical staff to guide the safe care of the patient
2. Notify the clinical laboratory
3. Notify the Connecticut Department of Public Health
4. Implement a travel screening question to identify patients at risk for 2019-nCoV during initial triage in the Emergency Department

Reference: Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China
<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00426.asp>