



Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

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Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties
Tom Lynch, EMS Administrator
Reza Vaezazizi, MD, Medical Director

DATE: January 27, 2020

TO: EMS Providers - ALS, LALS, BLS, EMS Aircraft
Hospital CEOs, ED Directors, Nurse Managers and PLNs
Inyo, Mono and San Bernardino County EMCC Members
Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Members
Systems Advisory Committee (SAC) Members

FROM: Tom Lynch
EMS Administrator

Reza Vaezazizi, MD
Medical Director

SUBJECT: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health continue to closely monitor an outbreak of a 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China that began in December 2019. This coronavirus causes upper respiratory symptoms as well as pneumonia. There have been recent human-to-human transmissions and healthcare workers have become infected. The number of cases continues to change. Two cases of Wuhan coronavirus were confirmed in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

San Bernardino County Department of Public Health is actively monitoring this rapidly evolving situation. The best up-to-date national information can be found at CDC's 2019-ncov website. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has asked healthcare facilities who have a patient suspected of having the 2019-nCoV to immediately contact the San Bernardino County Public Health Department. During normal business hours (Monday thru Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm) call the Communicable Disease Section at (800) 722-4794. After hours and on weekends, please call the Public Health Duty Officer at (909) 677-7168. Below is guidance for healthcare professionals as well as more specific guidance for collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens. Utilize the Health Update and Interim Guidance sent by the California Department of Public Health on January 23, 2020.

- **2019-nCoV has been seen in multiple countries including the U.S.** - Confirmed cases of the 2019-nCoV have been reported in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, and the United States.
- **All travelers from Wuhan City are being screened at international airports (SFO, LAX, JFK, ORD, ATL)** - Passengers on direct and indirect incoming flights from Wuhan City, China will be screened by the CDC at selected U.S. international airports for symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath) and fever.
- **Patients Under Investigation (PUI)** - Persons with fever **and** lower respiratory symptoms within 14 days of travel from Wuhan City, China who were in close contact with a PUI or ill laboratory-confirmed case of 2019-nCoV, **OR** Persons with fever **or** lower respiratory symptoms and close contact with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV within 14 days of symptoms.

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Once a PUI has been identified, samples to confirm or rule out 2019-nCoV are collected. Samples must be collected in a healthcare setting that has an Airborne Infection Isolation Room and by healthcare providers using personal protective equipment for airborne, contact, eye protection, and standard precautions.

- **Possible EMS involvement with 2019-nCoV** - EMS providers may become involved with these patients in several scenarios.
 - PUI may need transport to a medical facility.
 - Patient with a history of recent travel to Wuhan City, China and fever or respiratory symptoms may contact their medical providers resulting in a 9-1-1 call.
 - Patient with a history of recent travel to Wuhan City, China and fever or respiratory symptoms may call 9-1-1.

EMS providers should take the following precautions in these scenarios:

- If the patient exhibits symptoms of an acute febrile lower respiratory infection (fever, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, cough):
 - Place a surgical mask on the patient, **AND**
 - Obtain a detailed travel history to affected countries within the past 14 days or close contact with someone under investigation for 2019-nCoV.
 - Use standard, contact, airborne and eye protection (gloves, gown, and eye protection, goggles or face shield).
- Providers should use a fit-tested N-95 or P-100 mask.
- Use caution with aerosol generating procedures.
- If the patient is clinically stable, contact Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) base hospital for patient disposition. ARMC will function as the designated base hospital for all PUI contacts by EMS field personnel. All other patients presenting flu-like symptoms that are not PUI contacts, treat and transport under normal protocols with normal base hospital contact.
- Contact your supervisor.
- Use standard decontamination procedures after the call is completed.
- Properly doff and dispose of PPE according to protocol.
- Waste management per policy for medical waste (red bag).

EMS providers should inventory current PPE supplies and monitor usage.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Holk, EMS/HPP Coordinator, at (909) 388-5808 or via e-mail at ron.holk@cao.sbcounty.gov. After hours, contact the ICEMA Duty Officer at (909) 208-8618.

TL/RV/jlm

c: Keven Porter, Regional Vice President, HASC
Disaster Coordinators
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