



**HEALTH ALERT UPDATE**  
**FEBRUARY 28, 2020**  
**2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE (COVID-19)**

**SUMMARY:**

The information contained in this Health Alert supersedes guidance contained in previous Health Alerts (substantive guidance updates highlighted).

The virus has been named SARS-CoV-2 and the disease it causes has been named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Several geographic areas have had widespread or sustained community transmission of COVID-19: China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea. Circumstances may change over time and local transmission in the United States and California is a possibility as CDC recently confirmed COVID-19 in a Solano County resident with no identified relevant travel history or exposure to a known patient with COVID-19. To date, there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases among Contra Costa County residents.

Local health care providers should prepare for potential COVID-19 patients by reviewing and implementing CDC infection control recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hcp-preparedness-checklist.pdf>

Providers should immediately notify Contra Costa Public Health (925) 313-6740 of patients who meet the criteria in the table below:

Epidemiologic Risk	AND	Clinical Features
A history of travel from affected areas (China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea) within 14 days of symptom onset	AND	Fever <sup>1</sup> AND signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization
No source of exposure has been identified	AND	Fever <sup>1</sup> AND signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (cough, pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization AND without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g. influenza)
Any person, including a health care worker <sup>2</sup> , who has had close contact <sup>3</sup> with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset	AND	Fever <sup>1</sup> OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)

<sup>1</sup>Fever may be subjective or confirmed

<sup>2</sup>For health care workers, testing may be considered if there has been exposure to a person with suspected COVID-19 without lab confirmation

<sup>3</sup>While not using appropriate PPE: being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time, or, having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (being coughed on)

With the expanded testing criteria, we recognize that outpatient providers may be contacted by patients who have relevant travel history but illness that does not require hospitalization. A tool to assist providers with patient evaluation and management will be available on [cchealth.org/providers](http://cchealth.org/providers) shortly.



COVID-19 testing is now available through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) via Contra Costa Public Health. Contra Costa Public Health and the CDPH 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](http://cchealth.org/providers) for the latest COVID-19 information and guidance.

### **Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:**

1. **Identify** patients who may have respiratory illness caused by COVID-19.
2. **Screen** for travel history on all patients with potentially infectious disease, especially those with fever and acute respiratory illness. Place visible signage requesting visitors with a fever and recent travel to notify a hospital staff member.
3. **Immediately isolate** patients reporting fever **AND** lower respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND** travel to a COVID-19-affected area (China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea) 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:**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2019 Novel Coronavirus Situation Summary – [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html)
- CDC's Current Criteria for Suspected 2019-nCoV Cases (Person Under Investigation/PUI) - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html)
- CDC's Current Infection Prevention and Control Guidance - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html)
- CDC's Current Guidance for Specimen Collection, Handling, and Testing - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html)

