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## Provider Alert Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Based on an [All Facilities Letter](#) issued by CDPH on January 23, 2020, providing guidance for evaluation and testing for 2019-nCoV infection, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD) is advising all providers to take the following actions to screen, report, and test for 2019-nCoV infection:

- Place signage and implement a thorough travel history and screening at triage
- Screen all patients with respiratory symptoms for travel to/transit through Wuhan, China, or contact with suspect case of 2019 nCoV (see table below for definition of person under investigation “PUI”)
- **Immediately contact the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Disease Control Program to evaluate a suspect case for testing. Call 24/7 805-681-5280**
- Place symptomatic patients with a positive travel history in a surgical mask and private room, ideally an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR), wherever possible.
- Healthcare workers should follow CDC PPE guidance for 2019-n CoV, including contact, airborne, and eye protection precautions  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html>
- The PHD will work with CDPH Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) and the CDC to determine if patient meets criteria and will coordinate testing with the healthcare providers.
- Review procedures for collection of laboratory specimens for 2019-nCoV testing and laboratory biosafety guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
- If testing is required, lower respiratory, upper respiratory, and serum specimens will need to be collected and refrigerated. Please call 805-681-5280 (24/7) to have transport to Public Health Lab expedited.

## **Criteria for Person(s) Under Investigation**

Fever <sup>1</sup> ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}/100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) <b>and</b> symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	and	In the last 14 days before symptom onset, a history of travel from Wuhan City, China. – <i>or</i> – In the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact <sup>2</sup> with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
Fever <sup>1</sup> ( $> 38^{\circ}\text{C}/100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) <b>or</b> symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	and	In the last 14 days, close contact <sup>2</sup> with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

<sup>1</sup>Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgment should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

<sup>2</sup>Close contact is defined as—

- a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters), or within the room or care area, of a novel coronavirus case for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case.— *or* —
- b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

The above criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation and testing. Patients should be evaluated and discussed with the local public health department on a case- by-case basis if their clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure). Patients who meet PUI criteria should also be evaluated for common causes of respiratory infections and community-acquired pneumonia. [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html)