
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

GUIDANCE ON NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

JANUARY 27, 2020

SITUATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has alerted local and state health officials about an outbreak of pneumonia caused by a novel type of coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The outbreak originated in Wuhan, China, but has now expanded to other countries. As of January 27, 2020, 1,320 cases have been reported, the majority from China. Five cases, two of which are from California, have been reported in the United States. The CDC is closely monitoring the situation and is working with the World Health Organization. Passengers on direct flights from Wuhan, China are being screened for illness. At this time, no cases have been reported in Riverside County. CDC, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and RUHS-PH believe that the risk to the public is low. However, Public Health will keep hospitals and other health care providers informed about the evaluation and management of ill individuals. CDPH issued an AFL on January 23, 2020, which provides recommendations for health care facilities.

The AFL is located at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-09.pdf>. In addition, a checklist with step-by-step guidance is included with this advisory.

Updates on the outbreak are located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS

Specimens on patients being evaluated for possible 2019-nCoV should include nasopharyngeal and oral swabs, serum, and sputum or bronchoalveolar lavage (if the patient has lower respiratory illness). Swabs must be **ONLY** synthetic fiber with plastic shafts placed immediately into sterile tubes containing 2-3 ml of viral transport media. All specimens must be refrigerated at 2-8 °C.

Please contact Disease Control at the numbers below, **prior** to collecting specimens. Contact the Riverside County Public Health lab at (951) 358-5070 for questions on specimen collection. The lab request form is located at www.rivcolab.org. Specimens will be sent overnight by Riverside County Public Health to the CDC for testing.

REPORTING

Suspect cases should be immediately reported to Disease Control at (951) 358-5107 during business hours or after hours at (951)782-2974.

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