

HEALTH ADVISORY



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

To: Physicians and other health care providers

Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Clark County Public Health, 564.397.8412

Skamania County Community Health, 509.427.3850

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, 360.414.5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 360.795.6207

Steven Krager, MD, MPH

Clark County Public Health, 564.397.8412

Skamania County Community Health, 509.427.3850

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, 360.414.5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 360.795.6207

Alert categories:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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Interim guidance on outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Requested action

- Stay up to date. This is an evolving situation; please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) coronavirus website for the most update-to-date recommendations for health care providers.
 - ➔ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>
- Obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness.
- 2019-nCoV should be suspected in patients who present with:
 - ➔ fever **OR** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing), **AND** close contact with a laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset
 - ➔ fever **AND** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing), **AND** history of travel from Hubei Province, China within 14 days of symptom onset
 - ➔ fever **AND** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) requiring hospitalization, **AND** history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset
- Use the 2019 Novel Coronavirus health care provider evaluation tool when assessing patients for suspected 2019-nCoV.
 - ➔ <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/Interim-2019NovelCoronavirusQuicksheetProviders.pdf>
- Review the CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) or Patients Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV in Healthcare Settings
 - ➔ Ask patients with suspected 2019-nCoV infection to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and evaluate them in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room, if available.
 - ➔ All health care personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., gown, gloves, N95 mask or PAPR, and face shield or goggles).
 - ➔ Full details: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>
- Review your facility-wide plans for patient triage, evaluation and placement for 2019-nCoV. Refer to the two CDC checklists in the link below that outline key actions that

must be taken now to enhance preparedness for potential or confirmed patients with 2019-nCoV.

→ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>

Immediately notify both infection control personnel at your health care facility and your local health jurisdiction in the event of a suspected case of 2019-nCoV.

→ Providers must obtain approval from their local health department for testing through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Be prepared to collect for suspect cases:

→ NP swab (synthetic swab in 2-3 ml viral transport media); OP swab (synthetic swab in 2-3 ml viral transport media) and sputum, if possible (in sterile container)

→ Specimens should be refrigerated. Public health will provide guidance and facilitation regarding specimen collection, storage, and shipping.

→ Commercial respiratory panel assays do NOT detect 2019-nCoV.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring a large international outbreak of a novel coronavirus. To date, one confirmed case of novel coronavirus has been identified in Washington state. Visit the [CDC website](#) or the [Washington State Department of Health website](#) for the latest information about the outbreak.

Based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general public in the United States is deemed to be low at this time.

Additional resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>
- Information for Laboratories: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/index.html>
- Interim Guidance for Preventing Transmission in Homes and Communities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

Washington State Department of Health:

- Local Health Jurisdiction and Healthcare Provider Resources: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus/Resources>

Thank you for your partnership.

Local health jurisdiction	Phone	Fax
Clark County Public Health	564.397.8182	564.397.8080
Cowlitz County Health Department	360.414.5599	360.425.7531
Skamania County Community Health	509.427.3850	509.427.0188
Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services	360.795.6207	360.795.6143

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