



HEALTH ALERT #4 – February 13, 2020

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) now called COVID-2019

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/qv48c7m> for an electronic version of this Health Alert

Dear Healthcare Providers and Infection Control Partners:

The purpose of this alert is to advise health care providers of new guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since the February 4th health alert released by Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Branch, including:

- 1) Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV);
- 2) Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for 2019-nCoV in the United States; and
- 3) Recommendations for use of the Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment, including
- 4) Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators.

Key Messages:

- Check the Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency's "[Medical Professionals](https://tinyurl.com/qv48c7m)" web page at <https://tinyurl.com/qv48c7m> for an electronic version of this and previous 2019-nCoV Health Alerts (including hyperlinks).
- **Exposure assessment:** Collect travel history on all patients presenting with fever and acute respiratory illness. **At this time, risk of exposure to COVID-19 includes travel to mainland China or close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-2019 (2019-nCoV) patient.** Confirmed cases of COVID-2019 in the U.S. and California are under isolation and no community transmission has been identified. See the [CDC website for updates on areas that pose risk to travelers](#).
- **Exposure risk in symptomatic patient:** For patients that meet the above criteria or you otherwise suspect COVID-19, ensure the patient is using a surgical mask; isolate in an airborne isolation or single room with closed door; and use standard/contact/airborne precautions, including eye protection (fit-tested N-95 mask, gloves, gown, face shield or goggles) during examination and to collect oral pharyngeal and nasopharyngeal specimens. Contact Shasta County Public Health immediately for inquiries, reporting, and assistance with submission of specimens for testing. See detailed guidance and public health contact information below.
- Check the CDC and CalOSHA websites regularly for future updates to all guidance documents.

CDC Guidance:

New:

- [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)

"Engaging individuals, families and communities to protect and improve health and wellbeing."

Brandy Isola, Branch Director

Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH, Health Officer

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- Also see the corresponding [All Facilities Letter \(AFL\) 20-13](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points \(PSAPs\) for 2019-nCoV in the United States](#)
- [Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#)

Previously posted:

- [Flowchart to Identify and Assess 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) Exposure in Travel-associated or Community Settings](#)
- [Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation \(PUI\) for 2019-nCoV](#)
- [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](#)
- [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Patients Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)
- [Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for Handling and Processing Specimens Associated with 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)
- [Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) Infection](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)
- [Communication resources](#)

CalOSHA Guidance:

- [Interim Guidance for Protecting Healthcare Workers from Exposure to 2019-Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)

Waiting Room Posters:

- https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Coronavirus_Alert_English.pdf

Reporting and Testing - 2019-nCoV:

- Report suspected PUI immediately to Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Branch (SCPH) by phone at 530-225-5591 during business hours or 530-395-0132 after hours, weekends, and holidays.
- For questions about submission of specimens for testing of suspected PUI, contact the SCPH lab at 530-225-5072

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