



HEALTH ALERT #2 – January 31, 2020

2019 Wuhan China Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

What’s New:

Since the January 28th health alert, the criteria for a Patient Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019 Wuhan Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been updated.

Key Messages:

- On January 28th Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Branch released a comprehensive [Health Alert](#), which contains links to infection prevention and control recommendations, procedures for collection of laboratory specimens and laboratory biosafety guidelines, and resources from the California Department of Public Health.
- Check the Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency’s “[Medical Professionals](#)” web page at <https://tinyurl.com/qv48c7m> for an electronic version of these Health Alerts (including hyperlinks).
- Check the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) criteria for PUI](#) regularly for future updates.

Reporting and 2019-nCoV Testing:

- 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 specimen collection and submission, contact the SCPH lab at 530-225-5072.

Criteria for Patient Under Investigation (PUI) as of January 31, 2020 (CDC):

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact ² with a laboratory-confirmed ^{3,4} 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from Hubei Province , China within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization ⁴	AND	A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset

¹Fever may be subjective or confirmed

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

Brandy Isola, Branch Director

Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH, Health Officer

www.shastahhsa.net

²Close contact is defined as—

a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters), or within the room or care area, of a 2019-nCoV 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 2019-nCoV case – *or* –

b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a 2019-nCoV case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

See CDC's updated [Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#).

Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk) and the clinical symptoms of the person with 2019-nCoV (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk as does exposure to a severely ill patient). Special consideration should be given to those exposed in health care settings.

³Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of 2019-nCoV may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.

⁴Category also includes any member of a cluster of patients with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) of unknown etiology in which 2019-nCoV is being considered that requires hospitalization. Such persons should be evaluated in consultation with state and local health departments regardless of travel history.

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

Brandy Isola, Branch Director
Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH, Health Officer
www.shastahhsa.net