

February 3, 2020

**COM-2020-006**

Dear provider of pharmaceutical services,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which was first identified in China. Although the majority of cases 2019-nCoV infection have been reported in China, some cases have also been reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States (US).

**WHAT ARE CORONAVIRUSES?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).<sup>1</sup>

**Situation in the US**

- Imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in people have been detected in the US.<sup>1</sup> The current count of cases of 2019-nCoV infection in the US is available on CDC’s website: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html).
- No person-to-person spread has been detected with this virus at the time.<sup>1</sup>
- This virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the US.<sup>1</sup>

**Transmission**

The exact way this coronavirus is spread is not fully known and investigations are ongoing. However, with similar coronaviruses (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome [MERS] and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS]) the person-to-person spread is thought to occur similar to how influenza and other viruses that cause respiratory illness transmit: via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. There also may be some spread when a person touches a surface or object that has virus on it and then touches his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

**Symptoms and complications**

The complete clinical picture with regard to 2019-nCoV is still not fully clear. Reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying.

Symptoms	Complications
Fever Cough Shortness of breath	Pneumonia in both lungs



## Prevention

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. Infection can be best prevented by avoiding exposition to virus in general. The CDC always recommends the incorporation of the following everyday preventive actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## Treatment

There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV infection. Patients with 2019-nCov infections can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

## Recommendations for healthcare professionals

The CDC recommends that healthcare professionals should obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. In addition, healthcare professionals must take care of themselves and follow recommendations for infection control available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html>. The CDC have published an “Interim Guidance for Healthcare Professionals” and developed a “Healthcare Providers Preparedness Checklist” to aid healthcare professionals. The guidance provide clinical criteria to guide the evaluation of patients, recommendations for reporting, testing, and specimen collection, and other recommendations. The checklist highlights key steps for healthcare professionals in preparation for transport and arrival of patients potentially infected with 2019-nCoV. Please refer to this resources for details.

**BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR PEOPLE WITH TRAVEL HISTORY TO CHINA AND FEVER AND RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS!**

- Guidance available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>.
- Checklist available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hcp-personnel-checklist.html>.

For additional information on this topic you can visit the CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) websites.

We strongly exhort you to navigate resources provided by the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, to keep track of latest situation summary updates and learn more about this issue.



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Regards,

Clinical Department

References:

- 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan, China. CDC. Cdc.gov. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan, China. Situation Summary. CDC. Cdc.gov. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

