

Health Alert: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (n-CoV)

January 31, 2020

Please distribute to all appropriate personnel in your organization

Initial information about this alert:

Health issue of concern

- Potential outbreak: Person-to-person or animal-to-person
- Communicable Disease: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (n-CoV)

Location

- Initial cases originated in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

Clinical information

- On January 21, 2020: CDC confirmed the first case of 2019-nCoV infection in the U.S. (link is external) in a traveler returning from Wuhan, China.
- US Persons Under Investigation (PUI) as of 1/21/2020 - 165 people tested, 92 test results pending, 68 tests negative and 6 positive cases. To date, no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV infection have been detected in Wisconsin. Seven people have been tested, 6 are pending results and 1 result was negative.
- Case definition for PUI includes fever and/or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, difficulty breathing), a history of travel from Wuhan City, China, possible travel to mainland China or close contact with a lab confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset. For further definition, see the CDC link listed below.
- The immediate health risk to the general public in the U.S. is currently low.

Recommended Actions

- Placing movement restrictions (quarantine) on healthy individuals without symptoms who have traveled from China **is not recommended by public health at this time.**
- Testing **is not necessary or recommended**, by public health for healthy individuals traveling from China.

- Travelers from China that develop symptoms are encouraged to contact their medical providers before being evaluated, so the medical facility can initiate proper infection control measures before the patient arrives.
- Wisconsin DPH is asking health care providers to alert them if a person with recent travel to Wuhan, China has become sick with fever or respiratory symptoms. HCP should contact DPH at 608-267-9003 for consultation and approval of testing for patients.
- When PUI for 2019 n-CoV are evaluated, clinical samples are collected and submitted to the CDC for testing. Local laboratories collect samples and submit them to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene to forward onto the CDC.
- If there is a positive result from the CDC, the Wisconsin DPH will notify the medical provider and local health department. The local health department will then contact the PUI to discuss isolation guidelines and begin contact tracing.

Background or Comments

- Influenza is currently the predominant respiratory virus circulating in Wisconsin. For people to stay healthy, they should wash their hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when sick.

For additional information contact:

Wood County Health Department
715-421-8911

CDC Links

[Guidance for Travelers](#)(link is external)

[Information for Laboratorians](#)(link is external)

[Information for Health Care Providers](#) (link is external)