
Updated Feb. 14, 2020

As you are aware, an outbreak of a new strain of coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, presents an ongoing health threat across the globe. We are sure you have already been working diligently to respond to this threat. As information and recommendations about 2019-nCoV continue to evolve, we want to emphasize our support of the CDC and other public health partners as the appropriate source of [information and guidance](#) for health care organizations and providers.

The [CDC Infection Control webpage](#) for health care professionals addresses several areas we think worth emphasizing:

- Minimize the chance of exposure by working to identify patients before arrival (e.g., asking screening questions for patients calling for appointments) and as early as possible upon arrival (e.g., place signs for patients advising them to put on a mask if they have respiratory symptoms).
- Implement triage procedures to detect 2019-nCoV during or before patient triage or registration (e.g., at the time of patient check-in) and ensure that all patients are asked about presence of symptoms of a respiratory infection and history of travel to areas experiencing transmission of 2019-nCoV or contact with possible 2019-nCoV patients.
- If screening at triage is positive and the patient becomes a person under investigation (PUH), this should be communicated directly to the clinicians who will care for the patient, prevention and control services, and other health care facility staff according to a standard protocol.
- Adhere to standard contact and airborne precautions including eye protection.
- Monitor stock and the supply chain for personal protective equipment.
- Manage visitor access and movement within the facility.
- Implement mechanisms and policies to promptly alert key facility staff including infection control, health care epidemiology, facility leadership, occupational health, clinical laboratory and frontline staff about known or suspected 2019-nCoV patients.
- Identify specific staff to communicate and collaborate with state or local public health authorities.

Remember also that

This also is a good time to remind organizations of ~~practices~~ **practices** that are currently required that will decrease the risk of transmission of any infectious agent. ~~These~~ **These** should be in place regardless of any new identified infectious threat: