

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Provider Check List: Managing patients who may have (2019-nCoV) infection

The purpose of this checklist is to provide you with step-by-step guidance when evaluating patients who may have 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection, with the goal of preventing the spread of infection and expediting investigation with the appropriate Department of Public Health (DPH) and testing through the Public Health Laboratory (PHL).


Medical providers, for assistance with diagnosis and infection control, please contact your:
Campus Epidemiology/Infection Prevention Department

Step 1. Identify patients who may have respiratory illness caused by 2019-nCoV.

- Place visible signage requesting visitors with a fever and recent international travel to immediately notify a healthcare staff. (2019 nCoV travel alert poster: [English](#) / [Chinese-Simplified](#) / [Chinese-Traditional](#))

Step 2. Does the patient have:

1. Fever (T > 100.4 °F or > 38 °C)
2. Respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND
3. Travel to impacted areas or exposure to sick person from impacted areas (China) < 14 days prior to illness?

IF NO and patient does not meet all three (3) criteria then **STOP**  here and continue evaluation for alternative diagnosis as clinically indicated.

IF YES and patient meets all three (3) criteria, then immediately isolate patient:

- 2a. Place surgical mask on patient
- 2b. Place patient in private room with door closed (ideally negative pressure airborne isolation room).

Step 3. Implement following infection control procedures for healthcare workers:

- 3a. Standard precautions
- 3b. Contact precautions (gloves, gown)
- 3c. Eye protection
- 3d. Airborne precautions (e.g., N95 mask or PAPR)

Step 4. Immediately contact and report patient to the appropriate DPH:

LONG BEACH (562) 570-4302 (Weekdays 8am-5pm) and **(562) 500-5537** (After Hours)
ORANGE COUNTY (714) 834-8180 (Weekdays 8am-5pm) and **(714) 628-7008** (After Hours)

- DPH will advise on the next steps.
- DO NOT send specimen to PHL until case is discussed with and testing is approved by DPH.**

Step 5. Continue medical evaluation and empiric treatment for other causes of respiratory infection or pneumonia as clinically indicated.

All patients with suspected nCoV-2019 infection may also be tested for common causes of respiratory infection and pneumonia as clinically indicated. **Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen collection for nCoV-2019 testing.** Once approval for PHL testing has been approved by DPH, or if patient does not meet all three criteria in **Step 2**, PHL can assist with rapid molecular respiratory pathogen testing if needed.

Step 6. Do not discharge patient without prior approval from DPH.

Continue patient isolation and infection control procedures as above.