



EMS SYSTEM ADVISORY #2020-01/28

TO: Riverside County EMS System

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SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) Outbreak

DATE: January 28, 2020

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS-PH) continue to closely monitor an outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) originating in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China that began in December 2019. This coronavirus causes upper respiratory symptoms as well as pneumonia. There have been recent human-to-human transmissions and health care workers have become infected. The most up-to-date national information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Riverside County Coronavirus information: <http://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus.aspx>

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been seen in multiple countries including the US – Confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus have been reported in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, and recently in the United States.

U.S. International Airport Screenings - CDC is screening passengers for symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath) and fever on direct and connecting flights from Wuhan, China to five major airports: Atlanta (ATL), Chicago (ORD), Los Angeles, (LAX) New York city (JFK), and San Francisco (SFO).

2019-nCoV PATIENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI) CRITERIA

1. Persons with fever and lower respiratory symptoms within 14 days of travel from Wuhan, China (other affected countries¹) OR who were in close contact with a PUI or ill laboratory-confirmed case of 2019-nCoV
Or
2. Persons with fever or lower respiratory symptoms and close contact with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV within 14 days of symptoms.

Currently testing for 2019-nCoV is only being done by CDC. Health care providers must contact RUHS-PH prior to collecting samples. Once a PUI has been identified, samples to confirm or rule out Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) are collected. Samples must be collected in a health care setting that has an Airborne Infection Isolation Room and by health care providers using personal protective equipment for airborne, contact, eye protection, and standard precautions.



EMS (First Response and Transport) Involvement with Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Our EMS system may become involved with these patients in several scenarios.

- PUI with a history of recent (14 days) travel to Wuhan, China and fever or respiratory symptoms may call 911.
- PUI with a history of recent (14 days) travel to Wuhan, China and fever or respiratory symptoms may contact their medical providers resulting in a 911 call.
- PUI may need transport to a medical facility or between medical facilities.

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Centers:

1. Activation of **REMSA Policy 2102** <http://www.remsa.us/policy/2102.pdf> which authorizes Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) centers utilizing ProQA Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) to use the Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) Tool. The EIDS Tool will be utilized for providing responding crews with early notification of symptomatic patients so proper personal protective equipment (PPE) can be used.

EMS Patient Management and Transport:

1. If the patient exhibits symptoms fever or lower respiratory symptoms (shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, cough):
 - a. Place a surgical mask on the patient and obtain a detailed travel history.
2. If there is are symptoms and travel history consistent with 2019-nCoV PUI
 - a. Implement **REMSA Policy 3307 - Emerging Viruses** <http://www.remsa.us/policy/3307.pdf>
 - b. Initiate standard contact and airborne precautions (gloves, gown, N95 or P100 respirator and eye protection.)
 - c. Implement appropriate treatment protocols.
 - d. Contact Riverside University Health System – Medical Center (RUHS-MC)

On-line Medical Direction and Patient Destination Coordination:

1. **Designated Base Hospital** - (RUHS) Medical Center will function as the Designated Base Hospital (DBH) for all PUI. **REMSA Policy 6207** <http://www.remsa.us/policy/6207.pdf>
 - All EMS on-line medical direction and patient destination assignments for 2019-nCoV PUI will be coordinated through the DBH.
 - DBH will coordinate PUI designation assignments to the closest most appropriate receiving hospital.
 - DBH will use and maintain the ReddiNet – MCI Function to coordinate and track all patient destination assignments.
- Use standard decontamination procedures after the call is completed
- Notify your supervisor
- Report the PUI contact/transport to **RUHS-PH Disease Control**

RUHS-PH Disease Control
(951) 358-5107 (8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday)
(951) 782-2974 “request the PH Duty officer” (After Hours)

For further questions, you can contact the EMS/MHOAC Duty Officer at (951) 712-3342

ⁱ The list of affected countries may change over time and can be confirmed at the CDC site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>