

## Check List: Managing Patients who may have Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

### Guidance for Marin County Clinicians Marin County Division of Public Health Jan 24, 2020

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

Healthcare providers should screen for travel history on all patients with potentially infectious disease, especially those with fever and acute respiratory illness. Place visible signage requesting visitors with a fever and recent international travel to notify a staff member.

#### 2. Immediately isolate patients reporting fever (T >100.4°F or >38°C), lower respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and travel to Wuhan City, China within 14 days prior to illness or close contact with an ill person with 2019-nCoV.

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

#### 3. Implement infection control procedures for healthcare workers

- Standard precautions
- Contact precautions (gloves, gown)
- Airborne precautions (N95 mask or PAPR)
- Eye protection (goggles or face shield)

#### 4. Immediately report the patient to Marin County Public Health: 415-473-4163

Public Health will advise on the next steps.

#### 5. Collect specimens for laboratory diagnosis

See Specimen Collection instructions next page.

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

All patients with suspected nCoV-2019 infection should 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.**

#### 7. Discuss plan of care with Marin County Public Health prior to discharge

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Continue patient isolation and infection control procedures as above.

## Specimen Collection Instructions

CDC recommends the collection of specimens from (1) the upper respiratory tract, (2) serum, and – if recommended in consultation with public health - (3) the lower respiratory tract.

### 1. Upper respiratory tract

- **Nasopharyngeal swab AND oropharyngeal swab (NP/OP swab):** Use a synthetic fiber swab with plastic shaft. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts.

Nasopharyngeal: insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate, leave swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions. Swab both nasopharyngeal areas with the same swab.

Oropharyngeal: swab the posterior pharynx, avoiding the tongue.

Place each swab into a separate sterile tube, each with 2-3 ml of viral transport media. Do **NOT** combine NP/OP swab specimens; keep swabs in separate viral transport media collection tubes. Refrigerate at 2-8°C.

OR

- **Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate:** collect 2-3 mL into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container. Refrigerate at 2-8°C.

### 2. Serum

- Collect 1 tube (5-10 mL) of whole blood in a serum separator tube (minimum 1 mL whole blood is needed for pediatric patients). Refrigerate at 2-8°C.

### 3. Lower respiratory tract (if recommended in consultation with public health)

- **Sputum:** Collect sputum only if the patient is producing sputum; **do not perform sputum induction procedures.**

Have the patient rinse the mouth with water and then expectorate deep cough sputum directly into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container. Refrigerate at 2-8°C.

OR

- **Bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, or pleural fluid:** 2-3 mL in a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container. Refrigerate at 2-8°C.

**Note: If specimens cannot be collected at the healthcare facility, do not refer the patient to another facility to obtain specimens. Instead, notify Public Health to discuss.**

## Specimen Handling Instructions

Upon approval by Marin Public Health, arrangements will be made for prompt transport of specimens for 2019-nCoV testing to the regional Public Health Laboratory (PHL). Use Category B infectious substance packaging instructions. The PHL will ship specimens to CDC for testing.

**Do not send specimens directly to CDC or CDPH.**

CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) for 2019-nCoV: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

CDC Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for Handling and Processing Specimens Associated with 2019-nCoV: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab-biosafety-guidelines.html>

- For biosafety reasons, it is not recommended to perform viral isolation in cell culture or initial characterization of viral agents recovered in cultures of specimens from a person under investigation for 2019-nCoV.