



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

February 27, 2020

### **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Dear Colleagues:

This is an addendum to the February 26, 2020 Public Health Update.

#### **Current Situation**

Since yesterday's advisory, there have been significant developments to bring to your attention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [announced](#) that a Solano County resident tested positive for COVID-19 and appears to have been exposed within the community. This may be the first case of community-acquired COVID-19 in the United States.

Yesterday, we also coordinated the transfer of an asymptomatic COVID-19 case, who was a passenger on the *Diamond Princess*, from Travis Air Force Base to a hospital in Marin County for isolation and ongoing testing. This was a planned transfer and does not represent a risk to our community.

Today, the CDC updated [clinical criteria](#) for patients under investigation (PUI) to include testing of the following patients:

- Patients with fever (subjective or confirmed), and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) who have had close contact<sup>1</sup> with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset; or,
- Patients with fever (subjective or confirmed), and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) [requiring hospitalization](#) with a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset; or,
- Patients with fever (subjective or confirmed with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza).

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<sup>1</sup> Close contact is defined as—

- a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case
- b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)

If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection), criteria for PUI consideration are met.

The CDC also expanded the list of countries with COVID-19-related travel warnings. We anticipate the affected geographic areas with widespread or sustained community transmission will continue to increase. As of February 26, 2020, the CDC has identified the following countries: China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea.

**Actions requested of providers**

1. Prepare for the possible arrival of patients with COVID-19 by reviewing and implementing CDC-recommended infection control recommendations [Healthcare Professional Preparedness Checklist For Transport and Arrival of Patients With Confirmed or Possible COVID-19](#).
  - All health care facilities should immediately put a surgical mask on patients being evaluated for fever and/or respiratory symptoms; promptly place patients in private rooms; and have healthcare personnel wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for patients.
2. Reassure patients. Risk of coronavirus infection in the Bay Area remains low.
3. Reinforce basic infection control measures, including handwashing, proper cough hygiene, social distancing when sick, and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
4. Prescribe influenza vaccination.
5. Encourage patients to prepare for possible outbreak by ensuring they have an adequate supply of essential medicines; preparing a child care plan if the childcare is not available (including school closures); and staying up-to-date with [trusted resources](#) (e.g., CDC)
6. Obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated for fever and acute respiratory illness. Review [COVID-19 Travel Health Notices](#) to determine if patient has travelled to a geographic area of concern.
7. Patient seeking guidance regarding travel plans should be made aware of the possibility of new travel restrictions and risk should they travel abroad and should be guided to the CDC website for the latest travel advisories.
8. Report suspect COVID-19 cases to Marin County Public Health by phone (415-473-4163; after hours call 415-499-7237).

**Additional Information**

World Health Organization (WHO). <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

California Department of Public Health (CDPH). <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

Marin Health and Human Services <https://www.marinhhs.org/coronavirus-health-care-providers>

Sincerely,

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