



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20200131-00426-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers - Statewide
DATE: Friday, January 31, 2020
SUBJECT: Mississippi 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
Update, January 31, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

- The Mississippi State Department of Health is closely monitoring the expanding outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
- The virus is spreading person to person in China and limited person to person transmission has now been identified in countries outside of China, including the US.
- The World Health Organization on January 30, 2020, declared this outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern indicating a public health threat to other nations through the spread of disease.
- In the coming days to weeks, additional cases are likely in the US and globally.
- The outbreak is a serious public health threat, but currently the Mississippi public continues to be at low risk for 2019-nCoV infection.
- Risk of infection depends on exposure, which includes travel to China or direct contact to a known confirmed case.
- **To date, there are no cases in Mississippi and no suspects under investigation for potential infection.**
- The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) response is directed to preventing the spread of 2019-nCoV in Mississippi through rapid identification and reporting of potential cases, providing guidance on appropriate infection control, ensuring access to appropriate testing and performing contact investigation and evaluation.
- MSDH has developed Interim Guidance for Assessing a Person Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV which can be accessed here <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8408.pdf>. The situation is rapidly evolving, and guidance will be updated as needed.
- Please see the CDC website Information for Healthcare Professionals at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html> which provides infection control guidance, preparedness checklists, and guidance for clinical care.



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- MSDH is currently developing and updating additional guidance which will be distributed and available on the MSDH website at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html
- **ALL Mississippi Physicians/Providers and Healthcare facilities should be prepared to *Identify* persons at risk for infection, *Isolate* those individuals using appropriate infection control and *Call* MSDH when you suspect 2019-nCoV at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours, weekends and holidays).**
- Please see the full Interim Guidance for Assessing a Person Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV below and on the MSDH website for the criteria for identifying persons at risk for infection, isolation and infection control guidance, and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist



Interim Guidance for Assessing a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continues to closely monitor the rapidly evolving outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Hospitals, Physicians and other Healthcare providers need to be prepared to evaluate patients with suspected 2019-nCoV. This is a rapidly changing situation and guidance will be updated as needed.

Mississippi Physicians/Providers and Healthcare facilities should be prepared to *Identify* persons at risk for infection, *Isolate* those individuals using appropriate infection control and *Call* MSDH when you suspect 2019-nCoV at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours, weekends and holidays).

IDENTIFY

MSDH recommends asking about travel history to China in the last 14 days.

Patients in Mississippi who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI (Person under investigation) in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV.

1. Fever **OR** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)
-**AND** in the last 14 days before symptom onset,
 - Close contact with an ill laboratory confirmed 2019-nCoV patient
2. Fever **AND** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough, difficulty breathing)
-**AND** in the last 14 days before symptom onset,
 - History of travel from Hubei Province, China
3. Fever **AND** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough, difficulty breathing)
requiring hospitalization
-**AND** in the last 14 days before symptom onset,
 - History of travel from mainland China

ISOLATE

Immediately place a facemask on the patient with known or suspected 2019-nCoV (i.e., PUI), and,

- Isolate patient in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR). Once in AIIR, the patient's facemask may be removed.
- If an AIIR is not available, keep the facemask on the patient and isolate in a private examination room with the door closed. The patient should be transferred to a facility where an AIIR is available when feasible.

Staff providing care should use standard, contact and airborne precautions with eye protection (gloves, gowns, N 95 mask, goggles or face shield).



CALL

- **Immediately notify MSDH at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours, holidays and weekends).**
- MSDH will facilitate appropriate testing for 2019-nCoV and provide additional guidance. Collection of three specimen types, lower respiratory, upper respiratory and serum specimens for testing is recommended.

RESOURCES

- CDC Coronavirus 2019-nCoV: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- MSDH Coronavirus 2019-nCoV: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html
- CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>
- CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>
- CDC Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed 2019-nCoV: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>
- CDC Interim Guidance for Clinical Specimen Collection: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20200131-00426-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00426
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event

Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert

Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



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Message Type:

- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).