



Yolo County Health and Human Services



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To: Yolo County First Responders and EMS Providers

From: Kristin Weivoda, EMS Administrator
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Subject: Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update

2019- nCoV Update # 1

We are aware that many of our EMS partners have questions and concerns about the current reports of the coronavirus 2019-nCoV emerging out of China. Although this is an evolving issue, currently the overall risk in the U.S. is quite low and the CDC is monitoring this issue very closely with frequent updates. There has been no human-to-human transmission of 2109-nCoV in the U.S. to date. Coronavirus is the same virus strain as the common cold. This recent mutation appears to cause more of a flu-like illness that can be severe in some people such as the elderly. Just for perspective, though, the current influenza outbreak in the U.S. has caused 4000 deaths, 150 of those in California.

In response to the current outbreak, many groups are disseminating recommendations. The most up-to-date information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>

At this time, specific screening protocols for 9-1-1 emergency medical dispatch are not required or recommended. If a caller volunteers' information about travel to China within the past two weeks or close contact potential exposure to a patient/person under investigation (PUI), that information should be related to responding field crews, and reported to the County EMS/Public Health Duty Officer at 530-321-3620.

Routine exposure control precautions will offer protection to first responders.

EMS transport clinicians are advised to maintain a high index of suspicion in patients who present with fever and respiratory symptoms with travel history to Wuhan, China in the last 14 days. Ask a travel history on calls for patients with presenting complaint of flu-like symptoms. Place a mask on patient during this interview and maintain 6 ft distance, if clinical status allows for this.

If you have concern that the patient is at high risk due to travel history, current recommendations are to utilize the airborne/droplet PPE protocol including gloves, goggles, gowns, and N95 masks.

If you believe the patient is at high risk due to their history, notify EMS/Public Health Duty Officer 530-321-3620 immediately to discuss the findings, the duty officer will then provider instructions to the transporting agency.

Please do not hesitate to call the EMS/Public Health Duty Officer (530-321-3620) available 24/7 if any questions, or concerns come up, even on a scene.

We will provide updates as information becomes available.