



2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Healthcare Guidance

The 2019 novel coronavirus disease outbreak (COVID-19) is a dynamic situation that is being closely monitored by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO). Regularly updated information on the COVID-19 suitable for healthcare personnel and the general public is available at the [CDC website](#).

The immediate risk to the American public is believed to be low at this time. The CDC is NOT currently recommending the general public use facemasks, but does recommend following everyday preventive actions, including washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick. COVID-19 is thought to be spread mostly by person-to-person, close contact, similar to influenza.

PREVENTION:

What is best way to avoid being exposed COVID-19 and prevent infection?

- Frequent hand washing
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Healthcare personnel should adhere to [Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions](#), including the use of eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield) when caring for patients with COVID-19 infection
- Remind patients to receive influenza vaccine for the 2019-2020 season if they have not already

PATIENT SCREENING:

If patient history includes recent travel to China (within last 14 days) or close contact with someone infected with COVID-19 and the patient has signs and symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath, then:

- Seek medical care right away
- Before going to clinic or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about recent travel and symptoms
- Avoid contact with others and avoid travel
- Patients with confirmed or possible COVID-19 should wear a [facemask](#) when being medically evaluated

DIAGNOSIS:

As of February 12, 2020, diagnostic testing is available by the CDC and state and local partners. It will take several more weeks before diagnostic kits are commercially available to end users.

TREATMENT:

No specific treatments for COVID-19 are currently available. Unlike influenza, there is currently no vaccine, antiviral treatment, or chemoprophylaxis for COVID-19. Clinical management includes prompt implementation of recommended infection prevention and control measures and supportive management of complications. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions.