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<p>Message from NC DHHS:</p> <p>This guidance replaces version dated feb 7. All healthcare facilities (including hospitals and outpatient settings) and healthcare providers should be prepared to evaluate patients for many different respiratory infections including influenza (flu), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and most recently the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)</p>	

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Interim Healthcare Setting Guidance for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection and Their Healthcare Providers

February 10, 2020 (replaces version dated February 7)

All healthcare facilities (including hospitals and outpatient settings) and healthcare providers should be prepared to evaluate patients for many different respiratory infections such as Influenza (Flu), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and most recently 2019 Novel Coronavirus (**2019-nCoV**).

Preventing transmission of respiratory pathogens in the healthcare setting requires adherence to, and application of, **strong infection prevention** practices and policies including environmental and engineering controls, administrative controls, safer work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Measures that enhance early detection and prompt triage and isolation of patients who should be evaluated for 2019-nCoV are critical to ensuring effective implementation of infection control measures. Successful implementation of many, if not all, of these strategies is dependent on the presence of clear communication, administrative policies, and organizational leadership that promote and facilitate adherence to these recommendations among the various people within the healthcare setting, including patients, visitors, and healthcare providers (HCP).

Recommendations:

1. Minimize Opportunity for Exposures

Provide Signage, Respiratory Hygiene Supplies

- Post signage** for patients to encourage prompt notification of travel to an area with ongoing 2019-nCoV transmission in the last 14 days (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>)
- Provide **respiratory hygiene** supplies (e.g., hand hygiene agents, tissues, face masks, trash receptacle)
- Instruct persons with symptoms of a respiratory infection to adhere to respiratory etiquette and wear a **face mask** covering mouth and nose
- Instruct persons with symptoms of a respiratory infection to sit as far away from others as possible

2. Adhere to Infection Prevention Precautions

Identify Patients at Risk for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection

A. Identify **signs and symptoms** of 2019-nCoV and determine **potential for exposure**:

	Signs and Symptoms		Potential for Exposure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever or signs and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including healthcare workers, who has had close contact with a patient with a confirmed 2019-nCoV infection within 14 days of symptom onset
OR			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever and signs and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from Hubei Province , China within 14 days of symptom onset
OR			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever and signs and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset

B. The 2019-nCoV outbreak is a rapidly evolving situation and the case definition may change as the CDC learns more about the disease. Please visit the following website for the **most current case definition**: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>

Infection Prevention Precautions for Patients at Risk for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection

A. Patient placement:

IMMEDIATELY:

- Place a **surgical mask on the patient**. If this is not possible (e.g. would further compromise respiratory status, difficult for patient to wear), have the patient cover their mouth/nose with tissue when coughing.
- Isolate** patient in a private room with the door closed (use an airborne isolation room, if available).
- Ensure that all healthcare personnel entering the room use **contact AND airborne precautions INCLUDING eye protection** (e.g., goggles or face shield). Please note: Airborne precautions include use of NIOSH-approved fit-tested N95 mask or higher.
- When possible, **limit the number of visitors** and **healthcare providers** to minimize possible exposures.

B. Notify infection prevention and health department personnel:

- Notify your healthcare facility's **infection control personnel**.
- Notify your **local health department** (<http://www.ncalhd.org>) and the **NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch** (919-733-3419; available 24/7) to discuss need for laboratory testing for 2019-nCoV

C. Monitor the CDC's 2019-nCoV infection prevention guidance for changes as the outbreak evolves and comply with the **most up-to-date recommendations**: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html>

3. Management of Patient and Environment

Manage Patients at Risk for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection

- A. Provide treatment according to standard protocols with the following considerations included:
 - Use caution when performing **aerosol-generating** procedures (e.g., procedures likely to produce coughing).
 - Perform procedures only if medically necessary.
 - Limit** number of healthcare providers to minimize possible exposures.
 - Conduct procedures in **negative pressure** (airborne isolation) rooms when feasible.
 - Use **disposable or dedicated** noncritical patient care equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuffs). If equipment will be used for another patient, clean and disinfect according to manufacturer guidelines before use.

Diagnostic Testing

- A. Perform any **clinically indicated respiratory** and other **diagnostic tests**
 - Respiratory testing:

<input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Influenza: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done
<input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Strep	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done
<input type="checkbox"/> Viral Respiratory Panel	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done
<input type="checkbox"/> Legionella	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done

Other clinically relevant testing:

Chest X-Ray Not Done Pending Normal
 Abnormal: _____
 Other: _____
 Other: _____

- B. **Clinicians** caring for patients who meet the CDC criteria for Person Under Investigation (PUI) **with approval to test** from the NC Communicable Disease Branch (919-733-3419; available 24/7) should contact the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health **BTEP Duty Phone** (919-807-8600; available 24/7) to coordinate the collection and shipment of specimens. Until testing is available at NCSLPH, all specimens will be sent via NCLSPH to CDC in Atlanta for 2019-nCoV testing.
 - Collection of **three specimen types:** nasopharyngeal **and** oropharyngeal swabs; and sputum if a productive cough is present. Sputum should **not** be induced.

Manage Visitor Access and Movement within the Facility

- A. **Limit the number of visitors** to minimize possible exposures.
- B. **Manage visitors** to rooms of patients at risk for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV):
 - Screen visitors for symptoms of acute respiratory illness before entering the hospital
 - Evaluate risk to the health of the visitor (e.g., visitor might have underlying illness putting them at higher risk for 2019-nCoV) and ability to comply with precautions
 - Provide instructions prior to patient room entry on: hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched, and use of PPE according to current facility policy while in the patient's room
 - Exclude during aerosol-generating procedures
 - Instruct visitors to **limit movement** within the facility

- Maintain log** of all visitors who enter 2019-nCoV patient rooms

Environmental Infection Control

A. **Hand hygiene:**

- Use **standard FDA-approved** hospital hand hygiene agents effective against coronavirus (e.g., alcohol foam or liquid soap)

B. **Cleaning/disinfection:**

- Use **EPA-registered disinfectant** appropriate for coronavirus in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed
- Manage laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste in accordance with routine procedures and category B waste handling

4. Management of Healthcare Personnel

Monitor Healthcare Providers

A. Healthcare provider follow-up:

- Maintain log** of all healthcare providers entering room (template available [here](#))
- Healthcare providers caring for 1) patients under investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV whose test results are likely to be delayed more than 72 hours, or 2) patients with confirmed 2019-nCoV, regardless of appropriate PPE use should:
 - Self-monitor with delegated supervision** for symptoms while caring for the patient and for 14 days following the last date of exposure
 - Supervision of self-monitoring** may be provided by the employer occupational health or infection control program in coordination with the state/local health department of jurisdiction. The supervising organization should remain in daily contact with the healthcare provider through the **self-monitoring** period.
 - Maintain symptom monitoring log.(template available [here](#))
- Asymptomatic healthcare providers** who have had an **unprotected exposure** (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE at the time of contact, see risk assessment guidelines provided by CDC here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>) to 1) patients under investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV whose test results are likely to be delayed more than 72 hours, or 2)patients with confirmed 2019-nCoV should:
 - Notify** their supervisor and occupational health immediately,
 - Comply with **work exclusion and monitoring** as determined by employer occupational health and state/local health department based on risk assessment and monitoring guidance provide by the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>
 - Note: Respirators confer a greater level of protection than a facemask regardless of the care scenario. However in the CDC guidance, use of respirator or facemask they are considered together. Risk categorization may differ for those wearing facemasks rather than respirators depending upon the nature of exposure (e.g. wearing a facemask rather than a respirator during a procedure likely to generate higher concentrations of aerosols would be considered higher risk when considering the use of a facemask rather than a respirator during routine care that was less likely to produce aerosols.)
- Healthcare providers who **develop any respiratory symptoms** after an **exposure**, whether **protected or unprotected** (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE at the time of contact) to a patient with 2019-nCoV should:

- Notify** their supervisor and occupational health immediately,
- Implement respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette,
- Comply with **work exclusion** (as determined by employer occupational health and state/local health department) until they are no longer deemed infectious.

Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Donning (Putting on):

- Perform hand hygiene** before putting on any PPE
- General approach to putting on this PPE combination for respiratory pathogens:
 - gown
 - respirator
 - goggles or face shield
 - gloves

Doffing (Taking off):

- Consider performing hand hygiene** using an alcohol based hand rub with gloves on prior to removing any PPE
- General approach to removing PPE for respiratory pathogens:
 - Gloves
 - goggles or face shield
 - gown
 - respirator
- Remove all PPE except respirator** at doorway or in anteroom
- Perform hand hygiene**
- Exit room
- Remove respirator **after leaving patient room and closing door**. Careful attention should be given to prevent contamination of clothing and skin during the process of removing PPE.
- Perform hand hygiene** after removing all PPE