

2019 novel Coronavirus (nCoV) Feb. 2, 2020 Update

The current updated situation:

As you are now aware, the newly identified Coronavirus has infected over 14,500 individuals, over 305 of whom have died, predominantly in Wuhan, China, but patients have been identified in 26 countries around the world, including seven cases in the United States. As the disease continues to spread throughout GMR service areas, the GMR 2019-nCoV National Guidance Team continues to be vigilant in providing support in preparation and response to these potential patients.

This update has specific, targeted information by Provider Role for Clinicians, Pilots, Non-Clinical Field Operational Personnel and Non-Clinical Office-based Personnel.

Targeted information

For ALL PROVIDERS:

- The GMR Nurse Navigation line 855.361.1996 is available 24/7. Through this resource, you will have access to clinical information and on-call physician resources to address patient identification or transport logistics questions and provider exposure questions.
- Additional information is available on the CDC websites:
 - [CDC nCoV Summary](#)
 - [CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)

For CLINICIANS:

- While 2019-nCoV has had similar virulence to SARS and MERS, it appears to have a significantly lower mortality.
- Standard laboratory respiratory viral testing currently available identifies several coronaviruses, however this does NOT include 2019-nCoV. Currently, U.S. testing for 2019-nCoV is only being conducted by the CDC. This has resulted in several “*false alarms*” as a result of other healthcare providers determining a “*Coronavirus positive*” patient is 2019-nCoV.

- You should obtain a detailed travel history for the past 14 days in any patient being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory symptoms.
- There should be a pre-transport briefing with all team members (clinical and non-clinical) to ensure everyone is ready with appropriate PPE.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact the GMR Nurse Navigation line 855.361.1996. The GMR National Guidance Team, including medical directors, are available to address any issues.
- Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a Person Under Investigation (PUI) in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV in China:
 - 1) Fever OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
 - **AND** any person, including healthcare workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
 - 2) Fever AND signs/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.
 - 3) Fever AND signs/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.
 - **CDC Clinical Criteria**
- If a provisional diagnosis is suspected based on above, implement ALL the following appropriate precautions:
 - Standard precautions (gloves)
 - Contact precautions (gown)
 - Airborne precautions (mask, N95 preferable)
 - Use of eye protection (goggles or face shield)
 - Place a surgical mask on the patient
 - Notify the appropriate receiving facility prior to arrival
 - Equipment and vehicle decontamination should follow current recommendations while continuing appropriate PPE

For PILOTS:

- Based on all available information, the risk of transmission of the 2019-nCoV is similar to that for other respiratory illnesses such as influenza.
- If you are transporting a patient who has been identified as a PUI (person under investigation) or a patient with laboratory proven 2019-nCoV, you should follow airborne precautions wearing an N-95/P-100 respirator.
- Aircraft decontamination should be performed following standard operating procedures. There are no special decontamination procedures recommended by the CDC or WHO.
- The most effective method to prevent transmission of any virus is to perform basic hygiene to include washing your hands.
- A series of Call-In discussions, specific for pilots, will occur over the next three days. If you have not received the Call-In information please contact [Tom Baldwin](#)
- There should be a pre-transport briefing with all team members (clinical and non-clinical) to ensure everyone is ready with appropriate PPE.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact the GMR Nurse Navigation line 855.361.1996. The GMR National Guidance Team, including medical directors, are available to address any issues.

For NON-CLINICAL FIELD OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL (Mechanics, Supply)

- Vehicle and equipment decontamination should be performed following standard operating procedures. There are no special decontamination procedures recommended by the CDC or WHO.
- Decontamination procedures should be performed while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment:
 - Standard precautions (gloves)
 - Contact precautions (gown)
 - Airborne precautions (mask, N95 preferable)
 - Use of eye protection (goggles or face shield)
- The most effective method to prevent transmission of any virus is to perform basic hygiene to include washing your hands.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact the GMR Nurse Navigator line 855.361.1996. The GMR National Guidance Team, including medical directors, are available to address any issues.

For NON-CLINICAL OFFICE BASED PERSONNEL (Billing, Dispatch, Administrative, HR, even Legal, etc)

- There is no evidence of risk of transmission of the 2019-nCoV from non-patient contact at this time.
- The most effective method to prevent transmission of any virus is to perform basic hygiene to include washing your hands.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact the GMR Nurse Navigation line 855.361.1996. The GMR National Guidance Team, including medical directors, are available to address any issues.

We have also created a [GMR Medicine Emerging Infectious Diseases site](#) for your reference, which will be updated regularly. Our team will continue to monitor this rapidly evolving, frequently changing situation.

Special thanks to Dr. Jake Keeperman (AEL) for developing the specifics in this alert.

Thanks for what you do and how you do it...



Ed Racht, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer, Global Medical Response

The National Guidance Team consists of GMR air & ground clinical practices staff, safety leadership, operations, education, equipment & supply, nurse navigation, physician medical directors and communications.

This message was distributed to all GMR employees.
