



Health Alert



Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor

Chicago Health Alert Network

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First Case of Human-to-Human Transmission of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Identified in Chicago

January 30, 2020

Summary and Action Items:

- A second confirmed case of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been detected in the spouse of the first case reported on January 24, 2020.
- This is the first case of human-to-human transmission reported in the United States but does not change general recommendations for diagnosis or prevention of this novel virus given the nature of the contact. Public health continues to monitor and trace contacts of both cases.
- Health care providers should continue to ask patients with respiratory symptoms and fever about any travel to China (particularly Hubei Province) or any known contact with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV. Updates to PUI definition will be posted at: <https://www.chicagohan.org/2019-ncov>.
- Suspect patients under investigation should be immediately placed in airborne isolation and reported to the Chicago Department of Public Health by calling **312-746-SICK (7425) or 311**.

Background: As of January 30, 2020, there have been two identified cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the Chicago area. The first case was announced on January 24, 2020, in a person who had traveled to Wuhan, China. The second case is the spouse of the first confirmed case. This is also the first case of human-to-human transmission in the United States. The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Cook County Department of Public Health, DuPage County Health Department, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health care providers on tracing and monitoring contacts of both cases. The identification of secondary transmission to a household member does not change general recommendations for diagnosis or prevention of this novel virus locally and the risk to the general public remains low. CDPH continues to provide consultation related to patients of concern and, though PUI definitions have not yet changed, recommends continued vigilance in identifying illness in individuals who may have travelled to Hubei Province, China within the last 14 days.

Symptoms and Exposures: Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Current epidemiologic risks include a history of travel to Hubei Province, including exposure to any healthcare facilities or a cluster of pneumonia of unknown etiology. Guidance on the criteria for persons under investigation (PUI), reporting forms, and diagnostic testing procedures can be found at <https://www.chicagohan.org/2019-ncov> and are subject to change – please check back frequently.

Reporting: Healthcare providers who identify a PUI should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their health care facility and CDPH by calling 312-746-SICK (7425) or 311 and ask to speak with the medical director on call. Epidemiologic risk factors and initial lab/imaging results will be discussed. If the patient meets case definition, a [2019-nCoV PUI form](#) should be completed.

Contact: For additional information or questions, please refer to <https://www.chicagohan.org/2019-ncov>.