

# CORONA VIRUS

## **NIGHT NURSE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE : ADVISORY**

**EFFECTIVE 1/30/20**

### **CORONA VIRUS SCREENING PROTOCOL - NIGHT NURSE TRIAGE RNS**

- Health authorities are closely watching an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new virus that originated in China. Governments are stepping up surveillance of airline passengers from central China and taking other steps to try to control the outbreak.
- **Ask ALL callers about travel in past 2 weeks and exposure questions/protocol.**
- **RNs will screen all patients for respiratory and URI symptoms of nCoV concern.**

### **Corona Virus Symptoms**

Common symptoms include a runny nose, headache, cough and fever. Shortness of breath, chills and body aches are associated with more dangerous kinds of coronavirus, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In serious cases, the virus can cause pneumonia.

- runny nose
- headache
- cough
- fever
- respiratory difficulty (e.g., retractions, SOB, tachypnea, wheeze, stridor)
- sore throat
- a general feeling of being unwell; chills, and or body aches

## **BACKGROUND**

- Common human coronaviruses, usually cause mild to moderate **upper-respiratory tract illnesses**, like the common cold. Most people get infected with these viruses at some point in their lives. These illnesses usually only last for a short amount of time.
- Human coronaviruses can sometimes cause **lower-respiratory tract** illnesses, such as **pneumonia or bronchitis**. This is more common in people with **cardiopulmonary disease, weakened immune systems, infants, and older adults**.
- **THE NEW 2019-nCov VIRUS is identified as a novel virus of the coronaviridae**: Scientists have identified it as a new coronavirus. The name comes from the Latin word for crowns or halos, which coronaviruses resemble under a microscope. The coronavirus family has many types that affect people. Some cause the common cold while others originating in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses such as SARS — severe acute respiratory syndrome — or MERS — Middle East respiratory syndrome.
- Wuhan pneumonia outbreak is linked to novel coronavirus in Central China that has caused a number of deaths there and several hundred infections, some severe, as well as exported cases in other countries.
- Many coronaviruses can spread through coughing or sneezing, or by touching an infected person. Chinese health officials

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say they believe the illness first spread from animals to people. They now say it can spread between people. Scientists believe the new virus can spread from person to person in close contact through the respiratory tract.

- The CDC has outlined recommendations for healthcare providers in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Clinicians are required to obtain a travel history for all patients presenting with a febrile illness. All patients who meet any of the following criteria should be evaluated as a person under investigation.
- Fever *and* symptoms of lower respiratory illness (eg, cough, shortness of breath) and in the last 14 days before symptom onset had ▪
- A history of travel from Wuhan City, China *or* Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
- Fever *or* symptoms of lower respiratory illness (eg, cough, shortness of breath) and in the last 14 days before symptom onset and had close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

### **Corona Virus Protocol-Triage Screening Questions:**

1. **TRAVEL: Ask ALL callers if they have traveled in the past 2 weeks.**

**If Yes--Where?**

**If China--Where?**

**If the person has traveled to a known high risk area--currently identified as:**

- **WUHAN CITY, CHINA,**
- **EZHOU, CHINA**
- **and/or HUANGGANG CHINA**

**RN Triager: Screen for respiratory and URI symptoms and follow this protocol's guidelines.**

2. **EXPOSURE: Ask ALL callers about any exposure to a close contact with travel history to high risk region, while that person was ill OR any close contact with a laboratory confirmed (novel corona virus) person?**

**RN Triager: Screen for respiratory and URI symptoms and follow this protocol's guidelines.**

#### **GO TO OTHER PROTOCOL:**

**If NO travel to or within the identified high risk areas of concern AND respiratory concerns, or exposure concern, please document:**

**"Negative Corona Screen"**

#### **RN-CALL 911 TO ARRANGE EMS TRANSPORT**

**Obtain patient's location and call back number. Call city's EMS crew for transport to HOSPITAL**  
**RN-NOTIFY EMS AND NOTIFY HOSPITAL WITH ER EXPECT:**

**"Respiratory symptoms AND travel to region of risk (or exposure) concern for corona virus."**

#### **RN CALL 911 NOW- IF PATIENT MEETS CDC CRITERIA:**

- Fever and acute respiratory illness: Signs and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) AND travel to high risk areas in last 2 weeks before symptom onset.
- Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness and travel to high risk are in last 2 weeks.

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*RN Call 911 Now- —continued—*

- Exposure: History of travel of close contact (person under investigation) while person was ill.
- Exposure: Close contact with laboratory confirmed nCoV (novel corona virus) patient

**If meets any CDC criteria above-Refer patient to Hospital via EMS transport.**

**INSTRUCT PATIENT to stay where they are, and NOT to leave that location until they receive a callback or transport arrives.**

**GET THEIR LOCATION AND CALLBACK NUMBER.**

**Ask them to stay there until they receive a callback or transport and be ready to answer calls.**

**DOCUMENTATION If any of the criteria are flagged (respiratory illness AND travel to region of risk) please document:**

**"Respiratory symptoms AND travel to region of risk, concern for corona virus OR  
"Exposure to corona virus concern."**