Job Aid for Clinicians
How to send information to the Arkansas Department of Health about a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

We recommend initially asking about any travel to China in the last 14 days. Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI (Person under investigation) in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV.

Identify PUI for Novel Coronavirus based on definition below:

1) Fever OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) –AND any person, including health care workers, who has 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.

Contact the Arkansas Department of Health’s Outbreak Response Section when you identify or suspect a PUI for Novel Coronavirus.

- (501) 537-8969 Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm
- 1-(800) 554-5738 after hours and weekends

First: Surgical mask for the patient upon entry. Isolate the patient (single room, closed door). Staff need to use standard, contact, and airborne precautions along with eye protection (i.e. gloves, gown, N 95 mask, goggles/face shield). Immediately notify your infection control.


Third: Perform routine testing but collect other samples and hold for testing until you consult with the ADH Outbreak Response Section:
- Upper Respiratory (Nasopharyngeal AND Oropharyngeal swab)
- Lower Respiratory (sputum or BAL)
- Serum
- We also recommend saving urine and stool if possible.


Consult with Outbreak Response for next steps.

Questions – Contact Outbreak Response Section 501-537-8969 (or after hours and weekends 1-800-554-5738)

January 31, 2020