



## **Memo Re: Coronavirus 2019-nCoV**

**To: All Velocity Urgent Care Providers, Nursing and Front Office Staff, Ops Coordinators, Practice Managers, Medical Directors**

**From: Tiffany Sibley, CMO Velocity Urgent Care**

CC: Alan Ayers, CEO; Erin Bucchignano, HR Director; Kurt Stalnaker, VP of Operations

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you may have heard, a new coronavirus has been spreading through the Wuhan, Hebei Province of China and several cases have been confirmed outside of China. As of yesterday, there have been five confirmed cases in the United States. However, there have been **no confirmed cases** in Virginia. Additionally, the CDC has issued that travel from other parts of China are only Level One: Maintain Usual Practices (do not travel to Wuhan, avoid contact with symptomatic people, stay home if sick, wash hands frequently).

### **What is coronavirus?**

Coronavirus is a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people, others in animals. Occasionally, the viruses that affect animals cross into humans. They are still trying to identify the source of 2019-nCoV.

### **What symptoms does 2019-nCoV produce?**

2019-nCoV produce mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Generally, symptoms appear within 2-14 days of exposure. This is based on the incubation periods of previous coronaviruses.

### **How is it transmitted?**

The CDC is working to identify modes of transmission. It is currently thought that transmission is through respiratory droplets such as from sneezing and coughing similar to how influenza or other respiratory illnesses are spread.

### **Is there a protocol for identifying possible exposure risks?**

Yes. Continue to use our influenza protocols for patients with flu-like and respiratory symptoms. *Additionally, please ask if the patient has travelled from the Wuhan, Hebei province within the last 14 days or been in close contact with those who have travelled from Wuhan in the last 14 days.*

The best way to prevent further transmission is to continue to wash hands frequently and use an alcohol-based sanitizer in between hand washings. Encourage the use of masks with patients displaying respiratory symptoms.

**What if we have a patient that has a respiratory infection and has traveled or been in contact with a traveler from the affected region of China?**

1. If needed, pull patient out of the waiting room and place in an exam room immediately to limit waiting room exposure.
2. Have patient wear a mask. Staff should wear masks with any possible exposed patient.
3. Call your local health department and report there is a possible affected patient at your location.
4. Follow instructions of health department.
5. Notify your manager, medical director, and Dr. Sibley ASAP.

I would like to let everyone know that the CDC does not yet see a threat to the general public in relation to the 2019-nCoV virus. We can take some reassurance of this but should remain vigilant to possible exposures.

For more information, please right-click on link and then click on open the link to the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Thank you for your attention during this time. Changes to this information may happen quickly and updates will be shared as they are available.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Sibley, DO CMO Velocity Urgent Care

Patients First, Team Player, Positive Energy and Continuous Improvement!