



January 20, 2020

Dear Colleague:

To help prevent introduction of a new coronavirus known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) into the United States, CDC is working with US Customs and Border Protection to assess and identify potentially infected travelers arriving on direct or connecting flights from Wuhan, China at these airports: San Francisco (SFO), New York (JFK), Los Angeles (LAX), Atlanta (ATL), and Chicago (ORD). This process will assess travelers coming from Wuhan into the United States. This is an evolving situation, and guidance may change quickly as CDC continues to monitor the situation closely.

We continue to work closely with EMS and other vital partners at US international ports of entry to enhance detection of travelers with possible 2019-nCoV symptoms. *To make accurate assessments of sick travelers, CDC requests that EMS systems stock thermometers on all units responding at US ports of entry.*

Please share this CDC update with EMS units at ALL US airports. We request EMS support to:

- Look for sick travelers arriving from Wuhan, China, who have any of these signs or symptoms: fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.
- If responding to an illness report from a flight:
  - Remove sick traveler(s) from the aircraft to conduct assessment.
- Measure the sick travelers' temperature and check for other symptoms.
- Ask sick travelers if they were in Wuhan, China in the 2 weeks prior to symptom onset.
- If the traveler has any of the above signs or symptoms or otherwise meets CDC's criteria shown on your EMS card, please wear the appropriate PPE as needed, and contact the CDC Quarantine Station within your jurisdiction, available 24/7.
- Station staff will work with EMS to evaluate the traveler's potential illness and exposures to 2019-nCoV, or another illness of public health concern. (If CDC staff are not present at the port of entry, EMS assistance with this evaluation may be requested.)
- Based on the sick traveler's clinical presentation and exposure history, CDC may require sick traveler have a medical evaluation.

If you have any questions about the above, please feel free to contact the CDC Quarantine Station in your jurisdiction at [www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html](http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html).

Thank you for your outstanding support and service,

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Encls: CDC Response to 2019 Novel Coronavirus

# Response to 2019 Novel Coronavirus

## CDC Request for Assistance to EMS at US Ports of Entry

January 20, 2020

### Signs and symptoms of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV)

Fever, cough, or difficulty breathing

### How you can help

- **Be especially vigilant for arriving sick travelers from Wuhan, China with any of the above signs and symptoms.**
- If responding to an illness report on a flight:
  - Bring a thermometer and appropriate PPE.
  - Remove sick traveler(s) from the aircraft to conduct assessment.
- Conduct a health assessment and include temperature.
- Ask sick travelers if they were in Wuhan, China in the 2 weeks prior to symptom onset.
- If yes or if meeting any EMS card criteria, please contact the CDC Quarantine Station within your jurisdiction, available 24/7. All contact information located here: [www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html](http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html). Station staff will evaluate with EMS the travelers' illness and possible exposures to 2019-nCoV.
  - If CDC staff are not present at the port of entry, EMS assistance with this evaluation may be requested.
- CDC will assess sick travelers and determine whether a medical evaluation is required from a public health standpoint.
- **Isolate sick or suspected 2019-nCoV traveler and protect yourself.**
  - Ask patient to wear a surgical mask.
  - Implement standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions and use eye protection (e.g. goggles or a face shield).
  - Specific CDC recommendations for healthcare providers are available at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html)

### Contact your CDC Quarantine Station

Contact information for your quarantine station is provided on the back of your CDC EMS card. You can also find your CDC Quarantine Station of jurisdiction at:

[www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html](http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html)

- Call 24/7 your CDC Quarantine Station of jurisdiction to report any sick travelers who have any of the above symptoms and were in Wuhan, China in the 2 weeks prior to symptom onset.

### For updated information

**This is a rapidly evolving situation—information may change quickly.**

- CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>
- CDC Travelers' Health updates: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/novel-coronavirus-china>
- CDC Quarantine Stations Info: [www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html](http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html)

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### Public Health Response Tool for EMS Responding to Illness/Death in Travelers

**Please take these public health actions:**

1. Follow EMS protocols for personal safety and infection control.
2. Separate ill person(s)  $\geq 6$  feet from others.
3. Measure temperature, if possible.
4. Provide a facemask to wear if ill person is coughing, sneezing, or has a rash. If facemask can't be tolerated, offer tissues and advise to cover coughs and sneezes.
5. Follow internal EMS notification procedures.
6. Collect the following information:
  - Name, sex, birth date, citizenship, and contact information of ill traveler; countries visited on this trip; names and contact information of travel companions; nature, onset, and duration of any symptoms; **on airplanes:** airline, flight and seat numbers; **on ships:** name of ship and cabin number.
7. Share information with the CDC Quarantine Station staff and follow their recommendations.

**THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH**

[www.cdc.gov/quarantine](http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine)

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