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MEMORANDUM

No. 20-MEMO-001 (Revised)

TO: Contra Costa County Permitted Ambulance Providers
FROM: Dr. David Goldstein, EMS Medical Director 
DATE: January 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China – 2019-2020

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Outbreak

- **Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak**
- **Causes upper respiratory symptoms as well as pneumonia**
- **Human to human transmission has been confirmed**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our Public Health departments continue to closely monitor an outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China that began in December 2019. This coronavirus causes fever, upper respiratory symptoms as well as pneumonia. There have been recent human-to-human transmissions and health care workers have become infected.

Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) is actively monitoring this rapidly evolving situation. The best up to date national information can be found at CDC's 2019-ncov website. For Contra Costa County specific public health guidance and instructions for reporting, check cchealth.org/providers.

- **Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been seen in multiple countries including the U.S.** - Confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus have been reported in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Europe, and recently in the United States.

- **All travelers from Wuhan City are being screened at select U.S. airports -** Passengers on direct and indirect incoming flights from Wuhan City, China will be screened by the CDC at selected U.S. international airports including SFO for symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath) and fever.
- **Persons Under Investigation (PUI)**
 - Persons with fever and lower respiratory symptoms within 14 days of travel from Wuhan, OR who were in close contact with a PUI or ill laboratory-confirmed case of 2019-nCoV;

OR

 - Persons with fever or lower respiratory symptoms and close contact with a PUI or confirmed case of 2019-nCoV within 14 days of symptoms.

Once a PUI has been identified, samples to confirm or rule out Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) are collected. Samples must be collected in a health care setting that has an Airborne Infection Isolation Room and by health care providers using personal protective equipment for airborne, contact, eye protection, and standard precautions.

- **Possible EMS involvement with Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

Our EMS system may become involved with these patients in several scenarios:

- We are asking dispatch to screen for recent travel to China and notify EMS crews appropriately.
- PUI may need transport to a medical facility.
- Patient with a history of recent travel to China and fever or respiratory symptoms may contact their medical providers resulting in a 911 call.
- Patient with a history of recent travel to China and fever or respiratory symptoms may call 911.

EMS providers should take the following precautions in these scenarios:

- Have the patient wear a facemask.
- Use standard, contact, airborne and eye protection.
- Gloves, gown, and eye protection (goggles or face shield).
- Providers should use a fit-tested N-95 or P-100 mask.
- Use standard decontamination procedures after the call is completed.
- Notify receiving hospital of patients at risk prior to arrival.

Questions concerning this memorandum should be directed to the EMS Duty Officer at (925) 570-9708.

