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Public Health Advisory – Coronavirus (NCoV)

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SITUATION UPDATE

A novel coronavirus (NCoV) has been identified in the Arabian Peninsula countries*. This NCoV is a new strain of coronavirus that was not recognized in humans until last year. There is very limited information on transmission, severity and clinical impact with only a small number of cases reported thus far. Among the 17 laboratory-confirmed cases of NCoV worldwide, 11 have died (as of March 27, 2013).

The CDC is recommending surveillance and testing for individuals who meet case definition. For example, individuals with unexplained severe respiratory illness and history of travel to the Arabian Peninsula should be tested. [See link below for more on suspect cases and case definition]. (*Countries in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring countries are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestinian territories, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.)

The State VRDL has the ability to screen for this novel coronavirus as well as other viral pathogens (the assay is not yet validated and test results can only be used for 'epi' purposes). Samples from suspect cases should be sent to Riverside County Public Health Lab for submission to VRDL for testing. The VRDL will screen the samples and send an aliquot to CDC.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Updated guidance (<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ncv/case-def.html>) has been posted on the CDC coronavirus website. Persons who develop severe acute lower respiratory illness within 10 days after traveling from the Arabian Peninsula or neighboring countries* should continue to be evaluated according to current guidelines. In particular, persons who meet the following criteria for "patient under investigation" (PUI) should be evaluated for novel coronavirus infection:

- A person with an acute respiratory infection, which may include fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}$ C, 100.4° F) and cough;
AND
- Suspicion of pulmonary parenchymal disease (e.g., pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome based on clinical or radiological evidence of consolidation); AND
- History of travel from the Arabian Peninsula or neighboring countries* within 10 days; AND
- Not already explained by any other infection or etiology, including all clinically indicated tests for community-acquired pneumonia[†] according to local management guidelines.

Hospitals and medical providers should report PUIs for novel coronavirus to Disease Control by telephone at (951) 358-5107 and fax the Novel Coronavirus Investigation Short Form to (951) 358-5102. To collect data on PUIs, please use the [Novel Coronavirus Investigation Short Form](#).

In addition, the following persons may be considered for evaluation for novel coronavirus infection:

- Persons who develop severe acute lower respiratory illness of known etiology within 10 days after traveling from the Arabian Peninsula or neighboring countries* but who do not respond to appropriate therapy; OR
- Persons who develop severe acute lower respiratory illness who are close contacts[‡] of a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness within 10 days of traveling from the Arabian Peninsula or neighboring countries*.

Testing of specimens for the novel coronavirus will be conducted at CDC. Recommendations and guidance on the case definitions, infection control (including use of personal protective equipment), case investigation, and specimen collection and shipment for testing, are available at the CDC coronavirus website (<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ncv/case-def.html>). Additional information and potentially frequent updates will be posted on the CDC coronavirus website.

[†] Examples of respiratory pathogens causing community-acquired pneumonia include influenza A and B, respiratory syncytial virus, adenovirus, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Legionella pneumophila*.

[‡] Close contact is defined as 1) any person who provided care for the patient, including a health-care worker for family member, or who had other similarly close physical contact, or 2) any person who stayed at the same place (e.g., lived with or visited) as the patient while the patient was ill.

For more information:

Please consult the CDC coronavirus website: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ncv>

Link to the CDC recommendations for sample collection and transport:

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ncv/downloads/Interim-Guidelines-NCV-Collection-Processing-Transport.pdf>

Link to the CDC recommendations for sample handling:

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ncv/downloads/Interim-NCV-Lab-Biosafety-Guidelines.pdf>

Please contact Disease Control at (951) 358-5107 if you have any questions.