Riverside University Health System (RUHS)  
Public Health (PH)  
2019-nCoV Evaluation Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to provide you with step-by-step guidance when evaluating patients who may have 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection, with the goal of preventing the spread infection and expediting investigation with RUHS-PH and testing through the Public Health Laboratory (PHL).

Medical providers, for assistance with diagnosis and infection control, please call:

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<th>RUHS-PH Disease Control</th>
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<tr>
<td>(951) 358-5107 (8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(951) 782-2974 (After Hours)</td>
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**Step 1. Identify patients who may have respiratory illness caused by 2019-nCoV.**

- Place visible signage requesting visitors with a fever and recent international travel to immediately notify a healthcare staff.

**Step 2. Does the patient have:**

1. Fever (T >100.4°F or >38°C)
2. Respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND
3. Travel to Wuhan City, China or other impacted areas <14 days prior to illness?

*IF NO* and patient does not meet all three (3) criteria then STOP here and continue evaluation for alternative diagnosis as clinically indicated.

*IF YES* and patient meets all three (3) criteria, then immediately isolate patient:

- 2a. Place surgical mask on patient
- 2b. Place patient in private room with door closed (ideally negative pressure airborne isolation room).

**Step 3. Implement following infection control procedures for healthcare workers:**

- 3a. Standard precautions
- 3b. Contact precautions (gloves, gown)
- 3c. Eye protection
- 3d. Airborne precautions (e.g., N95 mask or PAPR)

**Step 4. Immediately contact and report patient to Disease Control:**

(951)358-5107 from 8:00am- 5:00pm Monday to Friday and (951)782-2974 (After Hours)

- RUHS-PH will advise on the next steps.
- DO NOT send specimen to PHL until case is discussed with and testing is approved by Disease Control.

**Step 5. Collect specimens for laboratory diagnosis via the PHL.**

Collect one specimen from each category (lower respiratory, upper respiratory and serum) for a minimum of three (3) specimens as soon as possible regardless of symptom onset.

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1. Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgment should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

5a. Lower Respiratory
- **Bronchoalveolar lavage or tracheal aspirate**: 2-3 mL in a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container.
- **Sputum**: Have the patient rinse the mouth with water and then expectorate deep cough sputum directly into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container.

5b. Upper Respiratory
- **Nasopharyngeal swab AND oropharyngeal swab (NP/OP swab)**: Use a synthetic fiber swab with plastic shaft. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts. Place swab in a sterile tube with 2-3 mL of viral transport media. Do NOT combine NP/OP swab specimens; keep swabs in separate viral transport media collection tubes.
- **Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate**: 2-3 mL in a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container.

**NOTE:**
- It is imperative that NP and OP swabs are placed in viral transport media, such as ones used to collect specimen NP swabs for influenza testing (see figure to the right).
- Improper collection, such as placing swabs in bacterial culture media, will void the specimen and delay testing.

5c. **Serum**
- Children and adults: Collect 1 tube (5-10 mL) of whole blood in a serum separator tube.
- Infant: A minimum of 1 mL of whole blood is needed for testing pediatric patients. If possible, collect 1 mL in a serum separator tube.

If indicated Public Health may request the additional following specimens:
- **5d. Stool**
  - Collect and place in a sterile, screw-cap, leak-proof container without preservative.
- **5e. Urine**
  - Collect a minimum of 10mL in a sterile, screw-cap, leak proof container without preservative.

**TRANSPORT INFORMATION**
- Refrigerate specimens at 2-8°C and transport on cold pack.
- Complete a PHL form for *each specimen*. The test request form is located at www.
- Upon approval by Disease Control, the PHL will assist with courier pick up. Specimens that arrive at PHL without prior DPH approval may experience significant delays in testing. **If specimens cannot be collected at the clinic, do not refer the patient to another facility to obtain specimens** (i.e., commercial lab, other medical clinic). **Notify Public Health.**

**Step 6. Continue medical evaluation and empiric treatment for other causes of respiratory infection or pneumonia as clinically indicated.**
All patients with suspected nCoV-2019 infection may also be tested for common causes of respiratory infection and pneumonia as clinically indicated. **Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen collection for nCoV-2019 testing.**

**Step 7. Do not discharge patient without prior approval from Disease Control.**
Continue patient isolation and infection control procedures as above.