



Catholic Health System

Medical excellence with a tradition of caring.

Emerging Infection Alert

Infection Prevention & Control

Re: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

February 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Catholic Health Infection Prevention and Emergency Preparedness are actively coordinating efforts to prepare for the possibility of community spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

In light of recent outbreaks outside of China, new travel screening criteria are provided with the attached algorithm. Universal travel screening should continue at all acute care, primary care and ancillary care sites.

Patients with a complaint of respiratory tract infection symptoms and a history of travel from **China, Italy, Japan, S. Korea or Iran within 14 days**, or exposure to a suspected or known case of COVID-19 infection within 14 days should be immediately moved and placed under **airborne (Negative Pressure, N95 Masks) AND contact isolation. In addition, eye protection should be used when interacting with patients under investigation.** If no negative pressure room is available, the patient should be placed in a single room with the door closed. An immediate call should be placed to Infection Prevention and Control for further instructions (716-923-0670). Efforts should be made to prevent movement of the patient pending infection control evaluation and notification of public health authorities.

Thank you for keeping our patients, staff and visitors safe.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shiley, MD
Infection Prevention and Control
716-923-0670