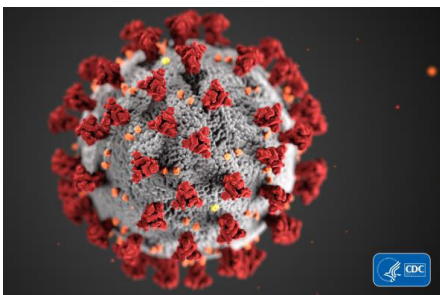


infectionconnection

A publication of the LDCPH Epidemiology program

Coronavirus: What Healthcare Providers Should Know



Healthcare personnel (HCP) are on the front lines of caring for patients with confirmed or possible infection with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and have an increased risk of exposure to the virus that causes it, now identified

as SARS-CoV-2.

HCPs can minimize their risk of exposure when caring for confirmed or possible COVID-19 patients by following CDC infection prevention and control guidelines, including use of recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).

Close contact can occur while caring for a patient, including:

- being within approximately 6 feet of a patient with COVID-19 for 10 minutes or longer.
- having direct contact with

See COVID-19 page 2

If you have a suspected COVID-19 case, take these steps:

- Right now, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is handling all testing for COVID-19. Notify KDHE for testing approval via the EPI hotline 1-877-427-7317, and provide the patient's travel history and symptoms.
- Resource: [Steps Providers Can Take](#)
- LDCHealth.org/Coronavirus

Evaluating and reporting persons under investigation (PUI)

Limited information is available to characterize the spectrum of clinical illness associated with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

No vaccine or specific treatment for COVID-19 is available, and care is supportive.

The [CDC clinical criteria](#) for a COVID-19 person under investigation (PUI) have been developed based on what is known about MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV and are subject to change as additional information becomes available.

Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. CDC guidance for evaluating and reporting a PUI for MERS-CoV remains unchanged.

[PUI Criteria Update from KDHE](#)

[CDC - Details on Evaluating and Reporting PUI](#)

[CDC - Interim Clinical Guidance for Managing Patients](#)

Definition of a Person Under Investigation (PUI)* Report any PUI to the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline 1-877-427-7317 **immediately.**

Epidemiologic Risk	&	Clinical Features
History of travel from Hubei Province, China within 14 days of symptom onset	and	Fever* and lower respiratory illness (cough or shortness of breath)
History of travel from any country with a CDC Alert Level 2 or Warning Level 3 travel advisory* within 14 days of symptom onset	and	Fever* and lower respiratory illness (cough or shortness of breath)
Close contact* with a person that has laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and developed symptoms within 14 days of contact	and	Fever* or lower respiratory symptoms (cough or shortness of breath)
No source of exposure has been identified	and	Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)

International Areas with Sustained Ongoing Transmission (s of March 5)

- China (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
 - Iran (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
 - Italy (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
 - Japan (Level 2 Travel Health Notice)
 - South Korea (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
- Check [CDC Travel Information](#) for Updates

Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	4	0	0	2	6
	Giardiasis	0	0	1	0	1
	Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	0	0	1
General	Hepatitis B, chronic	0	1	1	2	4
	Hepatitis C, chronic	6	5	11	4	26
	Hepatitis C, acute	1	0	0	0	1
Vector	Anaplasma phagocytophilum	1	0	0	0	1
Vaccine Preventable	Varicella	1	0	0	0	1
	Haemophilus influenzae	0	1	0	0	1
Other	Vaping Associated Respiratory Disease	0	1	0	0	1

NOTE: STD rates since July are not yet available as the state has transitioned to a new reporting system. When they are available, they will be included in a future Infection Connection issue.

Douglas County Health Officer helps public health, providers during COVID-19 preparations



Dr. Thomas Marcellino, Douglas County Health Officer

Dr. Thomas Marcellino is a board certified family practice physician in Lawrence. He also serves as the Douglas County Health Officer with Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health to provide guidance and advice on local public health issues.

During disease outbreaks the Health Officer has legal authority to issue orders of isolation, quarantine or requiring exposed person to seek appropriate and necessary evaluation and treatment.

All of these tools are used to help manage and avoid a serious public health threat during an outbreak.

COVID-19 information for providers, healthcare personnel

Continued from page 1

infectious secretions from a patient with COVID-19. Infectious secretions may include sputum, serum, blood, and respiratory droplets.

If close contact occurs while not wearing all recommended PPE, healthcare personnel may be at risk of infection.

Healthcare personnel caring for patients with confirmed or possible COVID-19 should adhere to CDC recommendations for infection prevention and control (IPC)

Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures are appropriate for COVID-19 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed. Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are recommended for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

If you have an unprotected exposure (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE) to a confirmed or possible COVID-19 patient, contact your supervisor or occupational health immediately.

If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, or difficulty breathing), do not report to work. Contact your occupational health services. For more information for healthcare personnel, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>.

- LDCHealth.org/Coronavirus
- [KDHE COVID-19 Resource Center](#)
- [CDC - Clinical Care Guidance](#)
- [Risk Assessment for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure](#)
- [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#)
- [CDC Healthcare Professionals Page](#)