
"Partnering to promote, protect and preserve health in our community."

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ADVISORY FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Central District Health Department Asks Health Care Providers to Watch for Novel Coronavirus in People Traveling To Arabian Peninsula

March 13, 2013

Background

Novel coronavirus is a beta coronavirus that was first described in September 2012, when it was reported to have caused fatal acute lower respiratory illness in a man in Saudi Arabia. As of March 8, 2013, 14 laboratory-confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection have been reported to WHO—seven from Saudi Arabia, two from Qatar, two from Jordan, and three from the United Kingdom (UK). Illness onsets were from April 2012 through February 2013. Of the 14 cases, eight were fatal. One of the 14 persons with novel coronavirus infection experienced a respiratory illness not requiring hospitalization. Additional details can be found in the March 7, 2013 *MMWR* (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm62e0307a1.htm?s_cid=mm62e0307a1_e).

Diagnoses rely on testing with specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays. There is no specific treatment for novel coronavirus infection; care is supportive. **To date, no cases have been reported in the United States.**

Recommendations

In light of these developments, updated guidance 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" should be reported to state and local health departments and evaluated for novel coronavirus infection:

- A person with an acute respiratory infection, which may include fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, 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.

Central District Health Department requests that health care providers report patients under investigation for novel coronavirus to the Communicable Disease Program: Phone: 208.327.8625/ Fax: 208.237.7100

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 (<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ncv>).

* Countries considered to be on or neighboring the Arabian Peninsula include Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen.

† 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 or 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.