

January 29, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is providing this update regarding the recently reported novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in China. The outbreak first started in Wuhan City, China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the United States.

There are many helpful resources that have been developed in the last week that can help you prepare for a potential case in your practice or facility, or simply to learn more about the rapidly developing situation.

- [TDH's Novel Coronavirus webpage](#) which includes [TDH Novel Coronavirus Triage and Assessment Guidance](#).
- [CDC's Novel Coronavirus webpage](#) which includes many [resources for healthcare providers](#). Please note:
 - [Healthcare Providers Preparedness Checklist](#)
 - [Hospital Preparedness Checklist](#)
 - [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](#)

CDC will hold a [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) webinar](#) on 2019 Novel Coronavirus this Friday, January 31st, 2:00pm EST/1:00pm CST. Information to join the call is available [here](#).

Please continue to routinely ask patients about recent (over the last month) travel history at points of [triage and patient assessment](#), and communicate relevant findings to infection control staff, public health officials, and treating clinicians. If you suspect the novel coronavirus in a patient, please call TDH at 615-741-7247. TDH staff will consult with providers and CDC to determine if patients meet criteria for 2019-nCoV laboratory testing. At this time, diagnostic testing for 2019-nCoV can be conducted only at CDC.

Thank you for all that you do in keeping Tennesseans safe and healthy.

Tennessee Department of Health