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