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TO: St. Clair County Healthcare Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians, Clinicians

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INTERIM GUIDANCE ON OUTBREAK OF 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) continue to closely monitor a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. Chinese health officials have reported hundreds of infections, including outside of Hubei Province. Infections with 2019-nCoV are also being reported in a growing number of countries internationally, including a confirmed case in the United States. Deaths have occurred as a result of the virus. Initially the virus was thought to spread animal-to-person however, there is now evidence that person-to-person transmission is occurring. SCCHD urges healthcare providers to heightened awareness of 2019-nCoV due to the international border. Search “CDC 2019 coronavirus” for up-to-date information.

Case Identification:

Healthcare providers (HCP) should obtain a **detailed travel history** for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a patient under investigation (PUI) in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV.

- Fever **AND** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) **AND**
 1. In the last 14 days before symptom onset, a history of travel from Wuhan City, China -or-
 2. In the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.

-OR-

- Fever **OR** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) **AND** in the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.

NOTE: Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgment should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

Guidance:

- HCP should **immediately** notify both infection control personnel and SCCHD in the event a patient under investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV is identified.
- The CDC recommends collecting lower respiratory, upper respiratory, and serum specimens from suspect case-patients. Other specimen types (e.g., stool, urine) may be collected and stored. Contact SCCHD for specimen submission approval to MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories.
- Patients should wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally in an airborne infection isolation room. HCP entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect cases (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the “After Hours Emergency Contact List” or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.