



## Health Update

February 28, 2020

### COVID-19

This is a health update for medical providers about COVID-19. The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) is working closely with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the facts related to this evolving issue and is also working with local agencies and providers in the event that a local case is confirmed.

**At this time, we do not have confirmed positive cases in Fresno County, but we anticipate that there may be cases in the future based on state and national trends. For the general population, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at the current time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is low.**

In California this week, it was announced that a patient being treated at UC Davis Medical Center may have contracted COVID-19 illness from community spread, as they had no travel or contact history to explain the infection. We are monitoring this situation very closely and will be sharing information and details about this specific case as these become available. However, this development marks a milestone, and it is reasonable to anticipate that community spread of this infection is probably going to occur again somewhere else in the US. At FCDPH, we will be working to get important communications and guidelines out to our local colleagues as soon as they become available from the CDC, CDPH and other reliable sources of guidance and information about diagnostic, therapeutic and prevention advances

We remain open to your questions and suggestions as we work to address the needs of the health care community. As an added step to ensure readiness within our local health care community, we are sharing some key points and important weblinks below, to update and inform health care practitioners with reliable information sources.

**Note:** Older updates are available on the FCDPH website: [www.fcdph.org/healthmessages](http://www.fcdph.org/healthmessages).

1. **COVID-19 continues to be reported worldwide.** New cases outside of China are more numerous than new cases reported from within China: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>
2. **Criteria for whom to monitor or test as a “person under investigation” (PUI) have been expanded** to reflect a broader geographic area. Additionally, any hospitalized patient with unexplained respiratory illness may warrant testing.
  - a. More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Health Information:** Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature

***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health***

1221 Fulton Street, Fresno, CA 93721 · P.O. Box 11867, Fresno, CA 93775

(559) 600-3200 · FAX (559) 600-7687

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- b. **Testing for COVID-19** infection should be considered if the patient has **fever, respiratory illness AND one of the following**: history of close family or hospital contact with confirmed COVID patient; recent travel from China, South Korea, Japan, Italy or Iran; or hospitalization for respiratory illness and no alternative diagnosis found.
- c. Flowchart for risk assessment: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/public-health-management-decision-making.pdf>

### 3. Local preparations in Fresno:

- a. An Incident Command System (ICS) is being established for Fresno County. This will allow us to deploy resources and respond to local developments more effectively and begin to allocate our resources and personnel before any positive COVID case is identified locally.
- b. We are working closely with community partners who oversee infection control at hospitals and health facilities, clinics, schools, and civic institutions.
- c. We also believe that **community preparation** will be important to limiting the US spread of COVID-19 and will require close coordination on multiple levels. For a more detailed description of community preparedness, see here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/preparing-communities.html>
- d. **Stay tuned for more info**: lectures, webinars and other opportunities to learn more are forthcoming.

4. **No COVID-19 cases have been reported from Fresno County.** Currently, Fresno County personnel are monitoring 14 individuals who have met criteria established by CDC and CDPH for a 14-day period of self-isolation. We anticipate that these numbers of travelers who require monitoring will fluctuate, and criteria may change given global trends.
  - a. If you feel you have a patient who meets criteria for self-monitoring or testing, or you have a question that we can help address, please call the Communicable Disease Investigation Program at (559) 600-3332.

5. **REMINDER: It's not too late to vaccinate for influenza.** It is still influenza season despite the warmer temperature. We are experiencing a "spike" in cases of influenza which is normal for this time of the year (sometimes called the late flu season). Good hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette including use of masks for those who have respiratory illness, and social distancing measures are all great practices to prevent influenza and coronavirus infections.

### Signs, infographics, and other helpful tools:

- COVID-19 Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hcp-hospital-checklist.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/public-health-management-decision-making.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/infographic-cdc-protects-508.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/what-you-should-do.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/PPE-Sequence.pdf>
- Non-English Print Materials: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>

### Contact the Fresno County Department of Public Health.

We recognize that information about this issue is changing, and that this brief document may not address all the questions that you may have. PLEASE contact the **Communicable Disease Investigation Program at (559) 600-3332** if you have any questions, concerns, or want to report a potential case. We will share weekly updates and post these and other informational items on the **Fresno County Department of Public Health Website**, which can be found at [www.FCDPH.org](http://www.FCDPH.org).