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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

HEALTH ALERT

Date: February 27, 2020

To: Healthcare providers, pharmacies

From: Martin Fenstersheib, MD, MPH, Interim Health Officer

Subject: **CDC expanded its Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Persons under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19**

On February 27, 2020, **CDC expanded its Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19** to include:

- Patients traveling from multiple affected geographic locations (see current list below);
- Patients with no source of exposure *AND* severe symptoms (see explanation below).

Providers suspecting infection based on the PUI criteria below of COVID-19 should immediately notify the San Benito County Public Health Services: 831-637-5367 (Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM) and 831-902-7248 (after hours and weekends). The Public Health Services, in consultation with clinicians and our public health official, will determine whether a patient is a PUI for COVID-19. Currently, there are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Benito County.

CDC Guidelines and Resources:

Evaluating and Reporting Person under Investigation (PUI), including

definitions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

All Information for Health Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

PUI Definitions 2/27/2020 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>):

1. Fever (subjective or confirmed) *OR* signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath); *AND* close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
2. Fever (subjective or confirmed) *AND* signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization*; *AND* a **history of travel from affected geographic areas (see below)** within 14 days of symptom onset. ***As of February 26, 2020, geographic areas with widespread or sustained community transmission include:***
 - China
 - Iran
 - Italy
 - Japan
 - South Korea

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite A-202
Hollister, CA 95023
831-637-5367

MEDICAL THERAPY UNIT
761 South Street
Hollister, CA 95023
831-637-1989

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C-1
Hollister, CA 95023
831-636-4035

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS
351 Tres Pinos Road, suite A-202
Hollister, CA 95023
831-637-5367

** For persons with travel to affected geographic areas within 14 days that are being regularly monitored by local health departments or referred for evaluation from border screening, testing for COVID-19 can be considered at the discretion of the health officials for all persons with illnesses with fever and lower respiratory symptoms (those hospitalized and those not hospitalized).*

3. Fever (subjective or confirmed) with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza); **AND no source of exposure has been identified.**

CDPH Laboratory update:

As of February 27, 2020 at 1:00pm, CDPH reported that the state Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) will now conduct COVID-19 testing for PUIs meeting testing criteria. Regional public health labs cannot currently test for COVID-19. San Benito County Public Health Services must coordinate any testing of local PUIs with the individual's provider and the appropriate lab (i.e., CDC or VRDL).

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Health Alert: Warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: Provides 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.