

Summary and Action Items

- The number of new infections of SARS-CoV-2, as well as the number of countries with confirmed cases of the disease it causes, COVID-19, continues to rise.
- Widespread or sustained transmission has been identified in China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, and Italy with some evidence of community transmission in several other countries.
- Clinicians should ask all individuals with Influenza like Illness (ILI) about any travel in the 14 days prior to symptom onset, and potential contacts to a confirmed case.
- Any individual with suspected infection with SARS-CoV-2 should be immediately isolated, and clinicians should call both their infection control team and local health department.

Background

A rapidly escalating and evolving global outbreak of COVID-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, is occurring. As of 2/27/2020, there are now over 81,109 confirmed global cases across 38 countries, including 14 lab confirmed cases in the US. In Illinois, there has been one travel-associated case, and one case among a close contact.

The CDC frequently updates their [travel notices](#) related to COVID-19. However, an updated CDC PUI guidance for persons returning from these countries has not been issued, although one is expected this week. Until the new guidance is issued, Illinois will be using the PUI criteria as defined below.

Person's Under Investigation (PUIs)

IDPH recommends considering the following patients suspect PUI's:

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath), +/- Fever	AND	A history of travel within 14 days of symptom onset from a country with a Level 2 or greater Travel Notice (Currently China, South Korea, Iran, Italy and Japan)
Signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath), +/- Fever	AND	A history of travel within 14 days of symptom onset from a country with a Level 1 Travel Notice (Currently Hong Kong) -consideration should be given on a case by case basis. Factors to consider include: negative respiratory panel and influenza test, local area of travel in the country, contact with a possible case, and / or severity of illness. Decision to test should be made in consultation with your local health department.
Hospitalized individuals with severe pneumonia, with an unidentified etiology (at least a negative influenza test, respiratory panel and sputum culture)	AND	Exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure, or no known exposure)

Evaluation of suspect PUI's

Healthcare providers should **immediately** isolate the suspect PUI per previous guidance and notify both infection control personnel at their healthcare facility and their local health department (or state health department if the local health department cannot be reached) in the event of a suspect PUI. Further guidance about testing can be found on the IDPH [website](#).

Public Health Management of Travelers

IDPH anticipating CDC will provide updated guidance on risk assessment and movement restrictions for returning travelers from countries experiencing sustained community transmission of COVID-19. Until that is available, IDPH is recommending "Medium" risk classification for returning travelers from Travel Alert Level 3 countries (currently South Korea and China) with movement restrictions in accordance with [CDC's Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Exposure in Travel-associated or Community Settings](#).

At this time, screening at US airports continues to be limited to travelers from mainland China. Pending further guidance from CDC, Local Health Departments should assess risk, limit movement and monitor symptoms for those that are brought to your attention.

Contact

For additional information or questions, please contact your local health department. If they are not available, please contact the IDPH Communicable Disease Section at 217-782-2016. For information after hours please contact your local health department, if they cannot be reached, use the IDPH after hours number 800-782-7860. Local health departments should contact IDPH for consultations on PUIs.

Additional Resources

IDPH website: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

Local health departments should consult the IDPH WebPortal COVID-19 portal page for up-to-date instructions and resources for this response.

Target Audience

Local Health Departments, Infectious Disease Physicians, Hospital Emergency Departments, Infection Preventionists, Health Care Providers, Long Term Care Facilities and Laboratories

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