



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20200122-00425-ADV (Health Advisory)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers - Statewide  
**DATE:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of 2019  
Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China

Dear Colleagues,

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continue to closely monitor an outbreak of respiratory illnesses caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China which has resulted in more than 400 infections and several deaths.
- While the initial outbreak was linked to a large seafood and animal market in Wuhan City, evidence of broader person to person transmission is emerging, with some potential healthcare worker transmission and cases being reported from other parts of China and other countries, including the US.
- **On January 21, 2020 the CDC reported the first case of 2019-nCoV detected in the US from a traveler returning from Wuhan (see <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0121-novel-coronavirus-travel-case.html>).**
- It is unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading person to person, but it is possible the number of reported cases and deaths will increase in the coming days.
- The CDC is actively monitoring travelers from Wuhan for symptoms at three major airports, San Francisco, New York (JFK) and Los Angeles. Expansion is planned to Atlanta and Chicago in the coming days, with all travelers from Wuhan, China funneled through those 5 airports.
- Providers are asked to report suspected cases to MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours). MSDH can provide guidance on infection control and assist with laboratory evaluation.
- Physicians and other healthcare providers are encouraged to frequently access the CDC website for the most current updates at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and review the most current CDC Health Alert Message at <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00426.asp>



**This is a rapidly evolving situation, and MSDH will provide updated information and guidance as it becomes available.**

MSDH is asking physicians and other healthcare providers to:

- Obtain a travel history for all patients being evaluated for fever and acute respiratory illness;
- Consider 2019-nCoV infection in patients with fever and/or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) with an onset of symptoms within 14 days of:
  - History of travel from Wuhan City, China
  - or-
  - Close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
  - or-
  - Close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.
- Infection Control
  - Such patients should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in an airborne infection isolation room. If an airborne infection isolation room is not available, place patient in a private room with the door closed.
  - Healthcare personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield);
  - For additional information, see the Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings (<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html>)
- **Immediately report suspected cases of 2019-nCoV to MSDH at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 on holidays, weekends and after hours).**

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
State Epidemiologist



**Alerting Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20200122-00425-ADV  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Advisory  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00425  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** 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 Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Message Type:**

- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).