

CDHB/CPRG **2019\_nCoV** UPDATE #2  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 19:00 hrs**

**Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team**

This is updated advice in an evolving situation. The **Canterbury Infection Prevention and Control Executive Committee (IPCEC)** and **Canterbury Primary Response Group (CPRG)** are closely monitoring the outbreak of respiratory illness from the 2019-nCoV first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese health officials have now reported over 4,500 cases of 2019-nCoV in China, most in Hubei Province with some spread into other provinces.

The following advice to primary healthcare workers on infection prevention is current as of 29 January 2020 but will likely need to be updated as the situation changes. This latest update supersedes the previous update on 22 January 2020.

### **Clinical Advice**

All suspected cases must be discussed with the **on call CDHB Clinical Microbiologist at 03 364 0640 or Infectious Diseases Physician at 03 378 6966**.

### **Infection Prevention & Control measures**

For all patients presenting to General Practice with fever and acute respiratory infection AND a history of travel specifically to Hubei Province, China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset OR who have had contact with a person with confirmed or suspected 2019-nCoV within the 14 days prior to symptom onset:

- a. Where possible, assess potential cases in the patient's car or a designated area away from the patient waiting room.
- b. Contact the on-call **Clinical Microbiologist on 03 364 0640 for advice** about appropriate specimen collection for respiratory viral testing.
- c. If the patient is sufficiently unwell to be referred to hospital, please ensure you contact the **Infectious Diseases Physician at 03 378 6966** first for advice. If it is a time-critical medical emergency or in the absence of this advice, **you must, at the very least, call ahead to the Emergency Department before transporting the patient.**
- d. Avoid nebulisers.
- e. Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask while in public areas (ideally on arrival to the practice).
- f. For advice on investigation of patients with fever and acute respiratory infection following travel to areas other than Hubei Province China, **contact the CDHB Clinical Microbiologist or Infectious Diseases physician on call.**

### **Staff returning from travel to China**

Any staff returning to work after travelling to China in the previous 14 days who have a fever and respiratory symptoms that include difficulty breathing should contact their practice or pharmacy manager or lead clinician before returning to work. Anyone who has travelled to China in the past 14 days and has no symptoms should check-in with their manager before returning to work, but if they later develop symptoms, they should stay at home and contact their practice or pharmacy manager for further advice.

### **Specimen collection and transportation**

To ensure appropriate, rapid and safe processing of samples, communication and information sharing is essential. All suspected cases where testing is being considered **MUST** first be discussed with the **Clinical Microbiologist (03 378 6966)**. Approach to testing will depend on specific history of exposure including travel to Hubei Province or other areas with sustained human to human transmission.

For updated info for Canterbury Primary and Community care go to the CPRG website:

[www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz](http://www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz)

General updates are available on the Ministry of Health website:

[www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus](http://www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus)

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder, Canterbury Primary Response Group

[www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz](http://www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz)