

CDHB/CPRG **CORONAVIRUS** UPDATE
Monday 3rd February 2020 16:00 hrs

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

The following advice to healthcare workers in Canterbury on infection prevention is current as of **03 February 2020** but will likely need to be updated as the situation changes. This latest update supersedes the previous update on the 29 January 2020.

Clinical Advice

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

Infection Prevention & Control Measures

A decision has been made by the Ministry of Health to expand the case definition for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The travel history now includes **those who have travelled to or arrived from anywhere in mainland China within the last 14 days**. Previously it only included people who had travelled to or arrived from the specific Chinese province of Hubei.

For all patients presenting to general practice with fever and respiratory symptoms AND a history of travel to mainland 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:

- Where possible, assess potential cases in the patient's car or a designated area away from the patient waiting room.
- Ask the patient to wear a surgical mask while in public areas (ideally on arrival to the practice).
- Contact and droplet precautions (with a surgical mask) are recommended by the WHO for the 2019-nCoV. This applies until advised otherwise by the Infection Prevention & Control Service.
- Discuss testing with the Clinical Microbiologist or Infectious Disease Physician on-call.
- For those staff undertaking aerosol-generating procedures, e.g. intubation, bronchoscopy, or suctioning where their face is in close proximity to the patient, an N95 mask and eye protection, e.g. safety goggles or a face shield, is recommended.
- Nebulisers should be avoided.

Staff returning from travel from mainland China (additional NZ border measures)

From now on, staff returning to NZ following travel to anywhere in Mainland China, or any staff who have had exposure to a confirmed case of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), will be expected to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from the time they left Mainland China or were exposed to novel coronavirus.

Self-isolation for people who arrived **before 2 February only applies** if they have been in Wuhan or Hubei Province. General Practice staff with questions should contact the on-call CDHB Clinical Microbiologist **03 364 0640** or ID Physician for advice **03 378 6966**.

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

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz

General updates are available on the Ministry of Health website:

www.health.govt.nz/coronavirus

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder, Canterbury Primary Response Group

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz