



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-2020206-00427-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers - Statewide
DATE: Thursday, February 06, 2020
SUBJECT: Updated Guidance on the Outbreak of 2019 Novel
Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Mississippi
February 6, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

This document updates the previous Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Health Alert on January 31, 2020 to provide additional guidance and resources during this rapidly evolving situation.

- While cases of 2019-nCoV infection have been identified in the US, with limited person to person transmission, there is no ongoing sustained transmission within the US currently.
- Risk of infection requires exposure to 2019-nCoV; either through direct travel to China or from direct contact to a confirmed case.
- **The risk of this infection to the Mississippi public continues to be low; to date, there are no cases in Mississippi and no suspects under investigation for potential infection.**
- On January 31, 2020 a Presidential Proclamation suspended entry to the US to all foreign nationals who have visited China in the past 14 days.
- Additionally, all US citizens coming from China are being re-routed to 11 designated US airports for enhanced symptom and health assessments to identify potentially ill persons, and to identify individuals for appropriate quarantine or health monitoring:
 - Symptomatic travelers will be transferred for medical evaluation near the airport;
 - Asymptomatic travelers who visited Hubei Province (the current center of the outbreak) in the previous 14 days will be quarantined near the airport location for 14 days;
 - Asymptomatic travelers who visited mainland China, but not Hubei Province, will be allowed to proceed to their destination where they will undergo monitoring.
- **We are at a pivotal point in this developing outbreak, and it is incumbent upon the Mississippi healthcare community and the Mississippi State Department of Health to work collaboratively to prevent the spread and transmission of 2019-nCoV and blunt the impact of the virus in Mississippi.**



Plan for Travelers from China returning to Mississippi

- Upon receipt of notification of travelers from China returning to Mississippi, MSDH will place those individuals on home isolation and monitor them daily for symptoms for 14 days.
- At the beginning of the monitoring period, MSDH will communicate with the nearest facility to the individual that has the appropriate Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) capacity.
- In the event the monitored individual becomes symptomatic, MSDH staff will then notify that hospital of the need for medical evaluation and possible testing for 2019-nCoV.
- While all Mississippi physicians, providers and healthcare facilities need to be prepared to **Identify** individuals at risk based on travel from China (or exposure to confirmed cases) and symptoms, **Isolate** these individuals using appropriate infection control and **Call** MSDH at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours), we do not anticipate that individuals at risk for 2019-nCoV who are being monitored will present unannounced to a healthcare facility for evaluation.
- In the coming days, MSDH staff will be visiting hospitals to provide additional details.

Updated Resources are available on the MSDH website which can be posted at your facilities:

- MSDH Interim Guidance for Assessing a Person Under Investigation for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/8408.pdf
- MSDH Flowchart to Identify, Isolate, and Call For 2019 Novel Coronavirus at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/8432.pdf
- Mississippi Public Health Laboratory 2019-nCoV Specimen Collection and Shipping Guidance at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/8430.pdf

Additional CDC Resources:

- CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>
- CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>
- CDC Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed 2019-nCoV: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>

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-2020206-00427-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00427
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



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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)).