

Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV

As of: January 23, 2020

Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Wuhan City, China.

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	and	In the last 14 days before symptom onset, a history of travel from Wuhan City, China. -or- In the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact ² with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
Fever ¹ or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)	and	In the last 14 days, close contact ² with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

The criteria are intended to serve as a guidance for evaluation. Patients should be evaluated and discussed with public health departments on a case-by-case basis if their clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure).

Footnotes:

¹Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgment should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

²Close contact is defined as-

- a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters), or within the room or care area, of a novel coronavirus for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case. *-or-*
- b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

See CDC's [Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/ncez/diseases/nCoV2019/interim-guidance-for-patients-under-investigation.html)

Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk) and the clinical symptoms of the person with novel coronavirus (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk as does exposure to a severely ill patient). Special consideration should be given to those exposed in health care settings.

See CDC's Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>