

# What to Do if There is a Suspected or Potential Novel Coronavirus Patient

- **Identify**
  - Ask the appropriate questions to determine if someone is at risk for 2019-nCoV
- **Isolate**
  - If the patient is identified as at risk, place them on the appropriate isolation precautions
- **Inform**
  - Contact Infection Prevention and inform them of the at risk patient. Further instructions will follow from Infection Prevention

# Identify

- At check-in for treatment at any AU healthcare clinic or hospital, patients should be asked if they have any respiratory symptoms including:
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Sneezing
- If patients report any of these symptoms, they should be asked to wear a cone mask while waiting to be seen.

# Identify (cont.)

- Patients must be asked if they have **either**:
  - Traveled outside of the United States in the past 14 days?
    - If yes, was it to China or Asia?
  - Had close contact with a person who has traveled to China/Asia and/or is under investigation for 2019-nCoV?
- **If the patient answers yes to either of these questions, place a cone mask on the patient and place them on Emerging Pathogens Precautions.**

## Identify (cont.)

**All patients MUST be asked if they have traveled outside of the United States in the past 14 days.**

**This is a mandatory intake question and will determine if the patient meets criteria for further evaluation for 2019-nCoV and other possible travel-related illnesses.**

**Isolation precautions are necessary for both asymptomatic and symptomatic patients who meet recent travel criteria.**

# Asymptomatic Patients

- There is a chance that individuals who have traveled to China/Asia or have had contact with an infected individual may not show any signs of illness;  
**Individuals who are asymptomatic will still need to be placed in isolation as a precaution until 2019-nCoV is ruled out.**
- These individuals will need to be evaluated by the Infection Prevention team.
  - Contact the Infection Prevention team at 1-2224.
  - After business hours call: (706)-840-5861

# Isolate

- **Emerging Pathogens Precautions:**
  - This subset of transmission-based precautions includes elements of both airborne and contact precautions.
  - Immediately isolate the patient and place them in a **private room**, preferably negative pressure, if available.
  - If there are not any available negative pressure rooms, obtain a HEPA filter from Central Distribution (1-3431) and place it between the patient and the door of the private room. Re-locate patient to a negative pressure room as soon as feasible.
- Door **MUST** remain closed at all times.

# Isolate (cont.)

- The current CDC recommendation for 2019-nCoV is to use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).
- **AU has designated the Emerging Pathogens Precautions to address all required precaution requirements**
  - Use the appropriate sized N-95 mask, disposable gown, gloves, and face shield.
  - N-95 mask should be removed after leaving the patient's room and disposed of appropriately.
  - If using goggles, they should be cleaned with PDI Sani-wipes (purple top wipes) between each use.



# Isolate (cont.)

- The Emerging Pathogens Precautions sign must be visible on the outside of the room

## EMERGING PATHOGENS PRECAUTIONS

ALL VISITORS: REPORT TO THE NURSES STATION

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- **STAFF:** Dedicated Staff Only. All Students and Volunteers Prohibited.
  - **HANDS:** Wash before entering room, upon exit & as necessary.
  - **GOWN:** Required.
  - **GLOVES:** Required.
  - **FACE:** Wear **N-95** mask to enter & inside the room. Eye protection required (goggles or face shield).
  - **ROOM/DOOR:** Must remain closed at all times.
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# Isolate (cont.)

- Required Personal Protective Equipment:
  - Disposable Face Shield or Goggles\*
  - Disposable Gloves
  - Disposable Gown
  - Fit-tested N-95 mask or PAPR



\*Goggles must be appropriately cleaned between each use using PDI Sani-wipes (Purple Top)

# Inform

- Once the patient has been moved to a proper isolation area, contact the Infection Prevention team.
  - Ext. 1-2224.
  - After business hours call:  
(706)-840-5861
- To confirm or deny a case of 2019-nCoV, the Infection Prevention team will guide the nurse through the process of collecting and properly labeling lab specimens.

