



## Public Health Department

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## Health Advisory

To: Healthcare Providers  
From: Andy Miller, M.D. (signed original on file)  
Date: March 20, 2020  
Re: COVID-19 Guidance for all Healthcare Providers

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### **Update:**

**As of March 20, 2020 at 12pm, Butte County has 0 cases of COVID-19.** In an effort to provide the most up-to-date information the Butte County Department of Public Health (BCPH) would like to provide you with the following information regarding diagnostic testing, droplet vs airborne precautions and a message from Dr. Miller for outpatient physicians. CDC and CDPH guidance changes frequently as this situation evolves. Please be sure to check CDPH and CDC websites often for updated guidance documents.

### **COVID 19 Prioritization of Diagnostic Testing**

<https://www.idsociety.org/globalassets/idsa/public-health/covid-19-prioritization-of-dx-testing.pdf>

### **Droplet Precautions vs Airborne Precautions**

Early reports suggest person-to-person transmission most commonly happens during close exposure to a person infected with COVID-19, primarily via respiratory droplets produced when the infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs of those within close proximity. The contribution of small respirable particles, sometimes called aerosols or droplet nuclei, to close proximity transmission is currently uncertain. However, airborne transmission from person-to-person over long distances is unlikely.

Current CDC guidance allows for face masks to be utilized only when the supply of respirators does not meet the demand. We are still recommending N-95 masks as the standard but not necessarily in an isolation room. Below is the link to the current guidance from the CDC.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

## **COVID 19 Check in with Dr. Miller**

Dr. Miller conducted his daily COVID 19 check in this morning via the Public Health Facebook page. Here are the recommendations Dr. Miller provided to outpatient physicians:

- Consider providing as many medication refills to patients that you can safely without needing an office visit.
- Remain open as you are an essential function and we need you.
- Do not have patients with respiratory symptoms spend time in the waiting room. Consider evaluating them in their cars or have them call upon arrival and escort them immediately to a private room.
- Consider cohorting patients, for example seeing well visits in the morning and ill in the afternoon.
- Designate a specific provider and staff to see only patients with respiratory symptoms in an effort to minimize use of PPE.
- If you are a specialty provider please reach out to your local hospital to see how you can help.

Here is the link to view the entire video.

<https://www.facebook.com/buttecountypublichealth/videos/575601653042472/>

Here are some additional links to information from the CDC in regards to collecting specimens, practice preparedness and information for patients.

### **Updated Guidance on collecting clinical specimens**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

### **Practice Preparedness**

CDC Tips on preparing your practice for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/practice-preparedness.html>

Strategies for optimizing supplies of N95 respirators

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Frespirator-supply-strategies.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Frespirator-supply-strategies.html)

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

COVID-19 FAQ's for healthcare professional

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>

### **Patient Information**

Patient information for those at high risk of severe COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

Corona-virus Self Checker: a CDC website at which patients can answer a set of questions to determine if they should seek care and/or testing. Patients who are assessed as being able to stay home are given their state's website and self-care instructions. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/index.html#>

### **Categories of urgency levels:**

**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.