



## Public Health Department

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## Health Advisory

To: Butte County Clinicians and Health Care Providers

From: Andy Miller, M.D. (signed original on file)

Date: March 6, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Checklist for Healthcare Clinicians (*Guidance subject to change as outbreak unfolds*)

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### **Background as of March 6, 12:00 pm**

**There are currently no confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Butte County. At this time, the immediate risk in Butte County community is considered to be low.**

### **Checklist for managing patients who may have COVID-19**

- 1. Identify patients who may have respiratory illness caused by 2019-nCoV.**
  - Screen for travel history on all patients with potentially infectious disease, especially those with fever and acute respiratory illness.
  - Place visible signage requesting patients and visitors with a fever and recent international travel, or exposure to a person known or suspected of having COVID-19, to notify a staff member.
  - Provide care for all patients, irrespective of COVID-19, at the appropriate level. Do not send patients to hospital emergency rooms for screening or evaluation unless medically necessary.
  - Outpatient HCPs should consider options that allow for and encourage patients with fever and cough to wait in their car for evaluation and possible specimen collection in a manner that prevents potential exposure of staff and patients.
- 2. Immediately isolate patients reporting fever (T >100.4°F or >38°C), lower respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and who may have been exposed to COVID-19.**
- 3. Place surgical mask on patient.** Place patient in private room with door closed (ideally, negative pressure airborne isolation room).
- 4. Implement infection control procedures for healthcare workers (standard, contact, airborne, and eye protection).**
- 5. Immediately report the patient to Butte County Public Health: 530-552-3929 (Mon-Fri, 8-5) or 530-332-2462 (after hours, holidays, and weekends).** Public Health will advise on the next steps.

6. **Collect specimens for laboratory diagnosis. Explore alternatives to collecting specimens that prevent unnecessary exposure (i.e., collect specimens from patient in patient vehicle). Do not send patients to Public Health for specimen collection. Specimens will be prioritized for testing according to risk assessment for COVID19.**
7. **Continue medical evaluation and empiric treatment for other causes of respiratory infection or pneumonia as clinically indicated.** All patients with suspected COVID-19 infection should also be tested for common causes of respiratory infection and pneumonia as clinically indicated. **Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen collection for COVID-19 testing.**
8. **Discuss plan of care with Butte County Public Health prior to discharge if patient is hospitalized.**

**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.