



# Calaveras Health and Human Services Agency

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509 East St. Charles Street  
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## Provider Health Alert

### Update on Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

**February 28, 2020**

Calaveras County Public Health is providing this update on the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) to local medical providers.

As of February 27, 2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that COVID-19 is not currently spreading within the United States. To date, there have been no deaths in the United States from the COVID-19. California has eight confirmed cases, all of which were contracted in other countries. A [CDC report](#) issued February 27 provides a more detailed update on COVID-19.

The CDC continues to recommend that healthcare providers take a cautious approach to patients and healthcare workers who present in your office with the following symptoms and history: **NEW Updated February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

CLINICAL FEATURES AND EPIDEMIOLOGIC RISK		
Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever <sup>1</sup> or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact <sup>2</sup> with a laboratory-confirmed <sup>3,4</sup> COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever <sup>1</sup> and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from affected geographic areas <sup>5</sup> (see below) within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever <sup>1</sup> with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza) <sup>6</sup>	AND	No source of exposure has been identified



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Affected Geographic Areas with Widespread or Sustained Community  
Transmission- **China, Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea**

Patients and healthcare workers who meet the above criteria are considered a “patient under investigation” (PUI) for COVID-19. The individuals should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified. They should also be evaluated in a private room with the door closed; ideally an airborne infection isolation room, if available. Healthcare workers entering the room should use airborne infection precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield). **Immediately notify your healthcare facility’s infection control personnel and the local health department.**

The CDC also recommends other actions, including:

- Managing visitor access and movement within facilities
- Monitoring and managing ill and exposed healthcare personnel
- Establishing reporting within healthcare facilities and to public health authorities

These are detailed in the CDC’s [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings.](#)

**Calaveras Public Health is requesting that all suspect cases be reported immediately by calling (209) 754-6460.**

**Dr. Dean Kelaita M.D., Calaveras County Public Health Officer, is advising that since there are many coronaviruses and they are routinely found in patients with the common cold, it is not unusual to detect one or several strains during routine testing. However, these strains are not the same as the COVID-19 strain. At this time the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is doing limited testing. For more information visit the CDPH’s [Immunization Branch](#) webpage.**

For updated Information for Health Care Professionals visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

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