

Memo to WRH Team Update on Coronavirus

Date: January 24, 2020

China locked down 11 cities at the hub of a new coronavirus outbreak that has killed 26 people and infected at least 830, as health authorities around the world took action to prevent a global pandemic. The lockdowns on new cities encompass more than 33 million people.

The World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledged that the respiratory illness is an emergency in China, but said it is too early to declare it a global one.

The CDC confirmed a **second case** in North America

The patient is a Chicago resident in her 60s. She is in isolation at a hospital in Chicago, and is in stable condition. The patient flew from Wuhan to Chicago on January 13. She was not ill while traveling and health authorities do not think she spread the virus during that time. Health authorities say she has had limited close contacts since returning to Chicago; she has not used public transit, attended large gatherings or had extended close contact with anyone outside her home.

For up to date commentary go to

[https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))

The following outlines the steps that WRH takes regularly to identify and manage patients with infectious symptoms:

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In addition to Routine Practices, individuals who present with the acute respiratory infection symptoms and **travel history to Wuhan, China or have been in contact with a sick person who has travelled to Wuhan, China or a confirmed 2019-nCoV case**, are to be placed on **Airborne/Droplet/Contact Precautions** in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (or a private room if an AIIR is not available). Staff are to wear gloves, gowns, N95 respirators and face protection. If a patient is identified that meets this criteria notify the hospital IPAC department.

Our pandemic response team is meeting regularly as the situation evolves to ensure we are ready and we will provide updates on a regular basis.



OUR VISION: OUTSTANDING CARE - NO EXCEPTIONS!

OUR MISSION: DELIVER AN OUTSTANDING PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE BY A PASSIONATE COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE