

Flowchart to Identify and Assess 2019 Novel Coronavirus

For the evaluation of patients who may be ill with or who may have been exposed to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Santa Cruz County

A. Identify
If in the *past 14 days since first onset of symptoms* a history of either

Travel to China	← OR →	Close contact with a person known to have 2019-nCoV illness ¹
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B. AND the person has
Fever or symptoms of lower respiratory illness
(e.g., cough or shortness of breath)



Updated 2/14/2020: 1) For severely ill individuals, testing can be considered when exposure history is equivocal and another etiology has not been identified; 2) For persons with travel to China within 14 days, testing can be considered at the discretion of public health officials for all persons with illnesses with fever and lower respiratory symptoms, whether or not they are hospitalized.

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

- Place facemask on patient
- Isolate the patient in a private room or a separate area (Airborne Infection Isolation Room if available).
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (i.e. gloves, gowns, respiratory and eye protection).
- Follow your facility's policies and procedures for safely donning and doffing PPE.²

2. Assess clinical status

EXAM	Is fever present?	Is respiratory illness present?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subjective?	<input type="checkbox"/> Cough?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured? _____ °C/F	<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath?

3. Inform

- Call the County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division: **Communicable Disease Unit (CDU) 831-454-4114.**
 - CDU to assess need to collect specimens to test for 2019-nCoV; decide disposition.
- For Public Health after-hours, weekends, and holidays call 831-471-1170.



If discharged to home

Instruct patient
As needed depending on severity of illness and health department consultation

- Home care guidance
- Home isolation guidance

Advise patient
If the patient develops new or worsening fever or respiratory illness

- Call clinic to determine if reevaluation is needed
- If reevaluation is needed call ahead and wear facemask

¹ Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of 2019-nCoV may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries. For more clarification on the definition for close contact see CDC's Interim Guidance for Healthcare Professionals: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/

² For additional information on safely donning and doffing PPE, see this CDC link: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>