

# Health Alert Network

**Date:** March 2, 2020

## **SUBJECT**

Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## **BACKGROUND**

This CDC HAN supplements information released by DPHHS on February 28, 2020 regarding COVID-19 and testing of persons under investigation (PUIs) and selected updates from DPHHS. Please see the attached CDC HAN for complete details.

## **INFORMATION**

Local or state health departments, in consultation with clinicians, should determine whether a patient is a PUI for COVID-19. The CDC clinical criteria for COVID-19 PUIs have been developed based on available information about this novel virus, as well as what is known about:

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS):  
<https://www.cdc.gov/sars/clinical/guidance.html>
- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS):  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/interim-guidance.html#evaluation>

Please see the attached CDC HAN for detailed information on the latest testing algorithm.

## **Laboratory Testing**

DPHHS currently has COVID-19 laboratory testing capability. Testing can be performed on individuals after consultation with local and state public health departments. Consultation is essential to ensure that limited testing capabilities are used efficiently, and public health measures can be implemented on suspected cases as test are performed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Please share relevant information with your local partners. Collaboration is essential to minimize confusion in messaging and actions taken. Health care providers, schools, facilities such as long term care centers and hospitals are asked to stay in close contact with local and state public health officials as the situation evolves.

### **Local Health Departments**

The attached document Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) should be forwarded digitally. The document has active hyperlinks.

### **School Settings**

CDC issued guidance for school settings. The PDF is attached to this HAN message. The guidance is also available on the CDC web-site at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>

## Foreign Travel for College Students

CDC issued guidance for foreign travel for college students. The guidance encourages schools and higher education programs to consider postponing or canceling student foreign exchange programs. Guidance for Student Foreign Travel for Institutions of Higher Education: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html>

- 1. Contact Missoula City-County Health Department Infectious Disease Nurse at 406-258-3896 Monday-Friday 9 am to 5pm**
- 2. For immediate after hours assistance, call 911 and ask them to page the “Health Department Infectious Disease On-Call Pager”**