

Montana Health Alert Network

DPHHS HAN

UPDATE

Cover Sheet

DATE

March 4, 2020

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

INSTRUCTIONS

DISTRIBUTE to your local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information.

- Time for Forwarding: **As Soon As Possible**
- Please forward to DPHHS at hhshan@mt.gov
- **Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own**



For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only
DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

DPHHS CDCP

**Epidemiology Section
1-406-444-0273**

For technical issues related to the HAN message contact the Emergency Preparedness Section at 1-406-444-0919

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769

DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov

REMOVE THIS COVER SHEET BEFORE REDISTRIBUTING AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR OWN

Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.
hhshan@mt.gov

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

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.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please update your HAN contact information on the Montana Public Health Directory

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet



DATE

March 4, 2020

SUBJECT

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

SITUATION UPDATE

DPHHS is working diligently with local public health and hospital partners to respond to current demands related to COVID-19 while preparing for future impacts. We will be providing scheduled weekly updates via the HAN messaging system with key information for a variety of settings. In addition, any activities that would require more immediate communication will occur as needed. Please review the information below and share with relevant partners. Please keep in mind that information is changing quickly.

Epidemiology Update

There are currently zero COVID-19 cases in Montana. Twenty-six returning travelers from China have been monitored since February 1 and 19 have successfully completed the 14 day monitoring period. Seven individuals are currently being monitored. Please find up to date information on COVID-19 in Montana at:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt>

For up to date global case numbers:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

For U.S. case numbers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

Significant changes have occurred with respect to travelers returning from China, Italy, Iran and South Korea: New guidance from CDC on 3/4/2020 for returning travelers from countries with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice (China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea) who will be asked to self-isolate and monitor health for 14 days from the day of departure from the country: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>. Travelers will receive a travel card beginning 3/4/2020 with these instructions (attached). Note that the state will not receive notification of these individuals, so the numbers will be dependent upon those who self-identify in their communities.

Laboratory Update

The Montana Public Health Laboratory now has the capability to test for COVID-19 but the number of tests available is limited. We ask that your providers consult with local public health and CDEpi to determine if an individual meets the criteria for testing. At this time the definition of a PUI is found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

We understand that there are individual who may not exactly meet the criteria who are of concern. Clinicians are asked to use their judgment to determine if a patient should be tested – please collect as much information as possible on

symptoms, travel locations and dates, contacts to known COVID-19 cases, and if any other testing for respiratory pathogens has been performed to aid CDEpi with the consultation process.

HOSPITALS & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Montana DPHHS has received several requests from hospitals for the State's respirator masks inventory. Due to a limited amount of inventory we must be judicious in how those masks are utilized. If we sent our inventory to everyone for everyday use, then the inventory would be obliterated in less than one day leaving us with nothing for patient care of a highly infectious disease patient. A process for requesting Medical Material Request Questions document has been distributed to State DES, Public Health, Healthcare preparedness listserv and EMS listserv today is for you to consider many options to assist you in optimizing your inventory by utilizing infection control practices, sister facility support, alternate purchasing, and mutual aid between competitors.

CDC has put together many reference documents to assist facilities in measures to take for safeguarding your PPE inventory. There is also a link for shelf-life extension and many other resources for use. Please take this information and strategize with your Leadership teams. There is a lot of useful information contained in these CDC links.

Healthcare Facility Resources

Many resources have been developed and updated regarding COVID-19 and healthcare facilities. Please see below for a list of resources that you may find helpful. The main "Information for Healthcare Professionals" webpage can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

Emergency Medical Services

- Refer questions to Shari Graham at sgraham2@mt.gov or 444-6098
- Guidance at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

Long-Term Care Facilities

- [Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities \(LTCF\)](#)

Recommendations

General Guidance for Healthcare Facilities:

- [Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take](#)

Current Interim Guidance

- [Interim Guidance for Public Health Personnel Evaluating Persons Under Investigation \(PUIs\) and Asymptomatic Close Contacts of Confirmed Cases at Their Home or Non-Home Residential Settings](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Collection and Submission of Postmortem Specimens from Deceased Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\) for COVID-19, February 2020](#)
- [Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\)](#)
- [Healthcare Infection Control Guidance](#)
- [Clinical Care Guidance](#)
- [Home Care Guidance](#)
- [Guidance for EMS](#)

- [Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure Guidance](#)
- [Inpatient Obstetric Healthcare Guidance](#)

Resources for Healthcare Professionals Caring for COVID-19 Patients

- [What Healthcare Personnel Should Know](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Healthcare Providers](#)

N95 Respirators and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Medical equipment requests for the State of Montana. If you need medical equipment, please contact your local disaster emergency services coordinator first. Based on the information included in the attached form, the next steps will be determined. Please use the attachment included in this HAN for this type of request.

Attached is an alternate supplier list for personal protective equipment.

- [Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [FAQs about Respirators](#)
- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#)
 - Clarification of introductory language was added
 - Information added on Crisis/Alternative Strategies
 - Information added to expand upon strategies, including two new resources:
 - [Checklist for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during the COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life: Considerations for the COVID-19 Response](#)

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Recommendations

Local health jurisdictions at this time should prepare to enact non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) with their local health officer and local health board. As defined by CDC, non-pharmaceutical interventions are steps taken to implement strategies for disease exposure control without the use of medication or vaccine. Strategies may include the following:

- Promotion of precautionary protective behaviors, such as hand washing, cough etiquette, self-isolation for those with upper respiratory symptoms
- Isolation of individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection from individuals who are not sick
- Quarantine of healthy, but exposed individuals to determine if they are ill
- Restrictions on movement and travel advisories and warnings, such as screening at port of entry, limiting public transportation, and issuing travel precautions
- Social distancing efforts such as cancellation of events

The breadth and timing of when to enact these measures depends on the local assessment of the following several circumstances:

- If there is transmission within Montana

- If there is transmission locally and where that is occurring (if it localized to a certain setting or if it is in the community)
- The assessment of access and functional needs populations vulnerability to COVID-19 infection
- The assessment of congregate settings locally and how NPI measures will impact the community

A decision to cancel public gatherings in any setting, such as schools, churches, and public events, should weigh the benefits and potential negative consequences prior to acting. If local health officials report that there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, schools may need to take additional steps in response to prevent spread in the school. *The first step for schools in this situation is to talk with local health officials.* Please see also the recommendations for 'schools' section in this HAN for further guidance in the school setting.

Local public health staff are encouraged to see the attached graphic entitled Public Health Planning for NPI measures to Mitigate COVID-19, and may contact Jen Miller at jennifer.miller@mt.gov or other CDEpi staff for further guidance.

CLINICIANS

Recommendations

Significant changes related to who to test have occurred, however, as a result of limited availability of testing kits nationally, we ask clinicians to consult with local public health authorities regarding possible patient exposures, severity of illness, and other assessments performed. Once testing supplies are available in greater quantities, requirements may be relaxed. As always, please report suspected and/or confirmed cases promptly to local public health officials.

- Related guidance on new evaluation criteria is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>
- More general information for health care providers is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

SCHOOLS

State and local health officials are currently taking steps to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 into US communities. Schools can play an important role in this effort. MT DPHHS is working with the Office of Public Instruction and the Commission of Higher Education to disseminate further guidance for Montana educational facilities. There are currently no recommendations for changing travel plans within the U.S. for school affiliated trips. Stay up to date on [CDC Travel Health Recommendations](#) when making decisions about school-related travel.

Recommendations

Through collaboration and coordination with local health departments, schools can take steps to disseminate information about the disease and its potential transmission within their school community. Schools can also prepare to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among their students and staff. Guidance is available on the CDC website for actions K-12 schools can take prior to COVID-19 being identified in their community, and after it is identified in their community or school. This guidance can be found on the COVID-19 CDC website under [Information for Specific Groups](#). Planning efforts should focus on:

- Protection of confidentiality for students and staff
- Monitoring and management of absenteeism
- Policies or procedures for sick staff or students
- Partnership with the local health department for planning and mitigation activities

Local public health departments may contact Jen Miller at jennifer.miller@mt.gov or other CDEpi staff for further guidance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Currently no additional information.

Recommendations

Currently no additional recommendations.

Public Health Planning for NPI Measures to Mitigate COVID-19

1

Prior to COVID-19 Arrival

Promotion of precautionary protective behaviors with public

Educate public and healthcare partners on travel advisories

Discourage practices for the public that will hinder response efforts, such as inappropriate face mask use

Review NPI plan with health officer and board of health

2

First Case Identified in MT

Validate reported exposures to COVID-19 with DPHHS, and perform contact investigations as needed.

Isolate those with suspected disease, investigate and confirm disease with local healthcare partners and DPHHS.

Quarantine exposed individuals when indicated.

3

Localized Transmission or Outbreaks Identified

Continue all previously listed actions, and consider the following for social distancing measures:

Will cancellation of events disrupt transmission?

How much transmission is occurring locally?

Will social distancing efforts with congregate settings protect the intended population?

What are the negative consequences of social distancing efforts?

4

Transmission is Widespread

Continue all previously listed actions, and consider the following for social distancing measures:

Are the social distancing measures put into place working?

What measures can be added?

What measures should be discontinued?

What messaging to the public and partners is necessary to assist with compliance of NPI measures?

5

Transmission Wanes

Identify an endpoint for social distancing measures that have been put into place.

Continue surveillance for new cases and outbreaks in case of a "new wave" of infections.

Review NPI actions taken during the event and adjust NPI plan as indicated.

Health Alert: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

You have traveled to a country with an outbreak of COVID-19 and are at higher risk.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

Stay Home

Stay home for the next 14 days and monitor your health. Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and watch for symptoms.

If you feel sick and have symptoms:

- Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room.
- Tell the doctor about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Do not travel while sick.

Symptoms

Illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure.

Symptoms can include:



Fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher)



Cough



Shortness of breath

Visit the website for more information on monitoring your health and how to contact local public health officials. Visit: www.cdc.gov/COVIDtravel

For information about COVID-19 and how to monitor your health after travel, open your cell phone camera and scan this code:

Для получения информации о COVID-19 и о том, как контролировать состояние вашего здоровья после путешествия, включите камеру на вашем мобильном телефоне и отсканируйте этот код:

Pour obtenir des informations relatives à COVID-19 et à la manière de surveiller votre santé après un voyage, ouvrez la caméra de votre téléphone portable et scannez le code suivant :

دچتسمل انوروك سوريف لوح تامول عم ىلع لوصحلل
رفسلا دعب ذيحصلا كتلتاح قبقرم ذي فيكو COVID-19
أيئوض زمرلا اذه حسماو يولخلا كفتاه اريماك حتفا:

新型コロナウイルス感染症（COVID-19）に関する情報、および旅行後の自身の健康状態を観察する方法については、携帯電話のカメラを起動して、このコードをスキャンしてください。

Para obter informações sobre o COVID-19 e como monitorar sua saúde após a viagem, abra a câmera do seu celular e digitalize este código:



코로나바이러스감염증-19(COVID-19) 및 여행 후 건강 상태를 모니터링하는 방법에 대한 정보를 보려면, 휴대폰 카메라로 이 코드를 스캔하십시오:

COVID-19 के बारे में और यात्रा के बाद अपने स्वास्थ्य को मॉनीटर कैसे करें, के बारे में जानकारी के लिए, अपने सेल फोन का कैमरा चलिए और इस कोड को स्कैन करें:

ສຳລັບຂໍ້ມູນເພີ່ມເຕີມກ່ຽວກັບ COVID-19 ແລະວິທີກວດກາເສັ້ນສະພາບຂອງທ່ານ ຫຼັງຈາກການເດີນທ່ານ ໂປຣດເປີດກ້ອງມືອັດຕິວຂອງທ່ານແລະສແກນໂສມ:

Untuk mendapatkan maklumat mengenai COVID-19 dan cara mengawasi kesihatan anda selepas perjalanan, buka kamera telefon bimbit anda dan imbas kod ini:

Para obtener información sobre el COVID-19 y cómo monitorear su salud después de un viaje, abra la cámara de su teléfono y escanee este código:

有关COVID-19 的信息以及如何如何在旅行后监测您的健康状况，请打开手机摄像头并扫描此二维码：