Date: January 28, 2020

From: Bernadette Bettencourt RN, MSN, CSN

Re: Coronavirus

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus (more specifically, a coronavirus) identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread is occurring. At this time, it’s unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

There have been four reported cases in the US, with both patients returning from Wuhan, China. The CDC is reporting more cases are likely and will be providing updates. The CDC responds to the 2019-nCoV is available online at www.cdc.org/coronavirus.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent the 2019-nCoV, and there are no additional precautions for the general public.

As a reminder, preventative actions can help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if not soap or water use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home when sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw it away.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects.

People who think they may have been exposed should contact your health care provider immediately.

Source: CDC, January 26, 2020