Ventura County Medical and Health Situation Report #5
COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)
Date of Report: February 24, 2020

Please Note: This situation report is intended to provide information to local officials within Ventura County. Updates to this report will be provided weekly (highlighted in yellow), unless there are significant changes locally, nationally or globally.

CURRENT SITUATION
Reports of an outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) were first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The 2019-nCoV strain of coronavirus presents with pneumonia-like symptoms, including fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. The first confirmed death occurred on December 27, 2019 in Wuhan, and thousands of confirmed cases have been identified in China.

Ventura County (as of 0800 February 24, 2020 per VCPH):
A quarantine facility has been established at Naval Base Ventura County for U.S. Citizen travelers returning to the United States from Hubei Province, China through LAX. Any individual potentially housed at this facility will be asymptomatic (no symptoms) and will have gone through prior travel/medical screenings by healthcare personnel. Travelers housed at this facility will be subject to a 14-day mandatory quarantine period before they are cleared to return to their final destination somewhere in the United States. While the facility is on a Department of Defense installation, all logistics and operations are being coordinated by US Health and Human Services through an HHS incident management team and personnel. It should be noted that individuals housed here are U.S. Citizens and are not being moved here from other facilities. It should also be noted that individuals housed here are not former passengers of the Diamond Princess cruise ship that was docked in Japan. At this time, there is one individual housed at the facility for a 14-day quarantine. Below are some additional points to consider:

• NBVC may be utilized as a quarantine until March 15, 2020
• NBVC personnel will not encounter any travelers at this quarantine facility.
• Any traveler that does develop symptoms while at the facility will be immediately assessed by HHS personnel and transported to a local hospital for additional testing and care, in coordination with local Public Health, EMS leadership, and hospital administration.
• At this time, based on current travel behavior, the number of individuals requiring quarantine due to travel is becoming smaller and smaller every day.
• Since this program began on February 5th, only 14 travelers have been screened into this repatriation program through 11 airports nationwide. Of those 14 individuals, 0 have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
• This program’s primary intent is to protect the community and limit/mitigate potential spread of this disease within the United States.
COVID-19 Situation in Ventura County

- 2 persons tested
- 0 confirmed cases
- 2 negative result
- 0 pending result

California (As of 1715 on February 23, 2020 per CDPH):

- 197 persons tested
- **Eight confirmed cases in CA, 17 confirmed repatriated to designated facilities
  ** (Repatriated) includes Travis, Miramar, and March confirmed positive cases. (CA), eight, includes all other confirmed cases in California.
- 155 negative results
- 17 pending results

United States (as of February 21, 2020, per CDC):

These totals represent cases detected and tested in the United States through U.S. public health surveillance systems since January 21, 2020. It does not include people who returned to the U.S. via State Department-chartered flights.

- 414 persons tested
- 15 confirmed cases
  - Eight in California
  - Two in Illinois
  - One in Washington
  - One in Arizona
  - One in Massachusetts
  - One in Texas
  - One in Wisconsin

Worldwide (as of 1500 hours on February 23, 2020 per Worldometers.info):

- 78,997 confirmed cases in 33 countries
  - Of the 78,997 confirmed cases, 2,054 confirmed cases outside of China
- 2,470 deaths
  - 26 deaths outside of China

On February 2, 2020, it was announced that state and local health departments will be responsible for issuing quarantine orders for persons arriving from Hubei Province and anywhere in China into U.S. airports.

On Sunday February 2, 2020 the Federal Government announced that four additional repatriation flights may be coming to the U.S. carrying approximately 800 passengers. These flights will possibly be received at Travis Air Force Base in Solano County, California, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego County, California, Texas, and Nebraska.

On January 31, 2020, the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to 2019-nCoV.

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) determined the rapidly spreading 2019-nCoV outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On January 30, 2020 the U.S. Department of State issued updated travel guidance for China, recommending travelers avoid travel to the entirety of the country (Level 4 Travel Health Notice).
**Message from Dr. Robert Levin – Ventura County Health Officer**

*The mortality rate in China as of Monday 2/24/2020 is 3.35%. The mortality rate in the rest of the world is 1.1%. As a reference point, the flu has a mortality rate of between 0.1% and 2.5% (the latter, the pandemic flu of 1918) depending on the season. These figures are probably being influenced by “selection bias” which is to say, due to a shortage of testing availability, only the sickest people are being tested. If all of the people who have mild disease or no symptoms with their infection at all were counted, it is likely that the death rate would calculate to be lower.*

Another reason the mortality rate in China is so high compared to the rest of the world is probably due to the fact that the medical services are overwhelmed in Hubei Province and as a result, simple life-saving supportive measures like IV fluids and oxygen are unavailable to many people who are ill. As evidence of this, reports out of China say that people are waiting for 7, 8 hours to be seen at a hospital and then just giving up and going home.

*The number of newly diagnosed cases in China has fallen steadily over the last week. The measures the Chinese are taking to control the spread of the disease appear to be taking hold. We are, however, starting to see person-to-person transmission in other countries.*

**Ventura County Emergency Medical Services Agency (VCEMS)**

VCEMS is working with US HHS and NBVC personnel to coordinate information and activities related to the traveler quarantine facility located on the naval base. Relevant information is being relayed to all necessary agencies and healthcare facilities.

On January 30th, guidelines for verbal screening were developed in collaboration with Ventura County Fire Department’s Regional Dispatch Center. Through this screening, 911 callers that fall into a certain category of complaint type will be screened for travel and symptomology consistent with a higher nCoV risk factors.

Updated (v.2) response guidelines for prehospital personnel were generated locally and sent to all agencies on January 31st for distribution to responders. Both the response guidelines and dispatch guidelines are consistent with recommendations from Federal and State agencies, and are updated as needed, based on evolving travel and screening recommendations.

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH)**

**State Response Activities:**

CDPH’s Medical and Health Coordination Center (MHCC) is activated at a Level 2 (with Level 1 being the highest) operating from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. CDPH Richmond Campus Coordination Center (RCCC) Sciences Branch is activated to support and coordinate coronavirus response activities, including a return traveler monitoring program. The Sciences Branch includes subject matter experts, scientists, clinicians and other functions that make up a clinical, laboratory, infection prevention, epidemiology, and surveillance.

The MHCC has received a total of 431 inquiries from local health jurisdictions and healthcare facilities. Inquiries are being forwarded to subject matter experts as appropriate.

- CDPH, The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) have formed a Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group for scarce resource allocation of N95 respirators.
  - Objectives include:
    - Competing priorities
• Advanced planning
• Supply on hand
• Supply chain availability
• Current outstanding resource request
• Distribution guidance based upon priority of needs

• The Emergency Pharmaceutical Services Unit (EPSU) Receiving, Staging, and Storing Mobilization Center (RSS-MC) is anticipating the return of the PPE Survey at the close of business on February 22, 2020 and has begun tabulating the results.

• Pandemic Planning: The seven Coronavirus Pandemic Planning Workgroups listed below meet regularly to discuss draft Coronavirus Pandemic Planning templates. The templates included the following information: Phase (Pre-Pandemic, Pandemic and Post Pandemic) Activity, Trigger, Potential Resource Needs, Potential Gaps, Timeline to Complete Activity, Risks/Barriers and Policy Decision Points.
1. Modeling of assumptions for Novel Coronavirus
2. Communications Strategy and Plan
3. Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)
4. Laboratories
5. Epidemiology & Surveillance
6. Health Care System Planning
7. Medical Countermeasures (MCM)

• The MHCC is preparing to establish a call center to help Local Health Departments who are overwhelmed to reach returning travelers from China within the last 14 days. The goals of the call center are as follows:
o To call returning travelers who have arrived less than seven days prior and whom the county is unable to reach.
o To provide returning travelers with instructions on how to self-monitor for symptoms, how to alert the Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ’s) if symptoms develop, and how to practice social distancing.
o To connect returning travelers with the appropriate LHJ if they are symptomatic at the time of the call.
o To provide answers to basic questions of travelers.
• CDPH has placed an order for 300,000 N95 respirators which are not expected to arrive until April. CDPH is in discussion with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) regarding the status of expired N95 respirators. NIOSH has released information that addresses the respirator supply issues, ways to conserve, and alternatives to N95 respirators. This information can be found on the CDC website at the following link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/healthcare-supply-ppe.html

• Returning Traveler Monitoring
• As of February 23, 2020, CDPH has received notifications on 8,060 returning travelers with arrival from China on or after February 3, 2020 from approximately 49 Local Health Departments (LHDs). This does not include persons from repatriation flights in federal quarantine. Initial information on many travelers were incomplete and therefore those travelers could not be assigned to a local health department for follow up (~295).
• Returning flight from Japan arrived at Travis AFB around 12:00 am on 2/17/20.
- 167 people on board. No children
- Passengers will be quarantined for 14 days and will be housed away from the other quarantined groups.
  - Medical groups are on standby to assist in any transportation needs outside of the Travis AFB.
  - 1 Senior Epi from CID and 3 Infection Preventionists from HAI are planning to provide on-the-ground support at Travis AFB.

** As of February 14, 2020, at 6:00 pm, CDPH has received notifications on 5,561 returning travelers with arrival from China on or after February 3, 2020 from approximately 46 Local Health Departments (LHDs). This does not include persons from repatriation flights in federal quarantine.

** As of February 15, 2020, Traveler notification data is not available due to a change in CDC reporting, and no reports are currently able to be forwarded to LHDs. A solution to this problem is in process.

- Traveler notification has been resolved as of 2/16/20. LHDs are receiving notifications again. Updated counts will be provided at a later date.

** Joint Information Center (JIC)
- No new information received

** Laboratory Testing
As of February 15, 2020, 13 Public Health Laboratories (PHLs) in California have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) test kits from the CDC, including CDPH, Alameda, Sacramento, Contra Costa, Shasta, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Tulare, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego, San Mateo, and Ventura Counties. **EUA test kit replacement orders are being shipped out to all laboratories that previously received kits, these should be distributed the week of February 24, 2020.**

- CDPH is developing an online PUI Identification Number Assignment Tool for all LHDs when Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory and Local Public Health Labs begin testing.
- CDPH is continuing to draft guidance for LHDs for low risk exposures, including Westerdam cruise passengers, adding it to the general risk assessment guidance we are providing for LHDs.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially named the virus and disease for 2019-nCoV as follows:
- Virus – SARS-CoV-2
- Disease – COVID-19

The Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) will be updated to reflect the SARS-CoV-2 name change.

CDPH lab Risk Assessment for SARS-CoV-2 has been finalized and completed.

CDC stated they are manufacturing a new U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved N3 reagent for the EUA test kits, in response to issues with false positive results. CDC will distribute N3 replacement orders automatically to all laboratories that have previously received kits. The timeframe for distribution is to be determined.

Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory can serve as the recipient of specimens from aforementioned passengers such that the lab can split, pack, and ship specimens to the CDC as necessary, while keeping some of each specimen at VRDL for testing as needed.
Healthcare Delivery System
CDPH is actively answering inquiries from healthcare facilities regarding preparedness for surge capacity, infection prevention readiness, and guidance for healthcare workers that have visited China within the last 14 days.

CDPH will conduct a weekly series of conference calls on Thursdays at 1:00 pm to update Local Health Departments on the latest developments regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, the next of which occurs on Thursday, February 27, 2020. This information was distributed via CAHAN.

CDPH will continue to host weekly all facility/provider calls, the next of which occurs on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Conference call information was distributed to healthcare facilities via CAHAN.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The CDC, under statutory authority of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, has issued federal quarantine orders to all 195 U.S. citizens who repatriated to the U.S. on January 29, 2020. The quarantine will last 14 days from when the plane left Wuhan, China. The individuals will continue to be housed at March Air Reserve Base in Ontario, CA and medical staff will continue to monitor the health of each traveler, including temperature checks and observation for respiratory symptoms. If an individual presents symptom, medical care will be readily available.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)
On February 2, 2020, DHS issued a press release outlining restriction on inbound flights with individuals who have been in China.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)
President’s Coronavirus Task Force
As of 1700 hours Eastern Standard Time on Sunday February 2, 2020, the U.S. implemented the following temporary measures:
• Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been in the Hubei province in the previous 14 days will be subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine to ensure they are provided proper medical and health screening. To be clear, this applies only to U.S. citizens who have been in Hubei Province in the past 14 days prior to their attempted entry into the United States.
• Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been in the rest of mainland China within the previous 14 days will undergo proactive entry health screening at a select number of ports of entry and up to 14 days of monitored self-quarantine/social isolation to ensure they’ve not contracted the virus and do not pose a public health risk.
• Foreign nationals, other than immediate family of US citizens and permanent residents, who have traveled in China within the last 14 days will be denied entry into the US for this time.
• Foreign citizens that have traveled to any part of China in the last 14 days will be denied entry into the U.S.
• All flights from China will be funneled through the following 11 U.S. airports:

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<tr>
<th>New York JFK</th>
<th>Atlanta ATL</th>
<th>Dallas/ Fort Worth DFW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seattle SEA</td>
<td>Honolulu HON</td>
<td>Newark Liberty EWR</td>
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<td>Chicago O’Hare ORD</td>
<td>Los Angeles LAX</td>
<td>Detroit DTW</td>
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<td>San Francisco SFO</td>
<td>Washington Dulles IAD</td>
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USEFUL LINKS
Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Website:
http://www.vchca.org/agency-divisions/public-health
CDPH Website:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/New-Release-2020.aspx

World Health Organization (WHO):
https://twitter.com/WHO
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

CDC Websites: