

Novel Coronavirus (NCoV) Advisory

The CDC has been monitoring the development of a new strain of Coronavirus that has been seen in just a few cases on the Arabian Peninsula and in the United Kingdom. To date, there are only 14 known cases but the last cluster of three patients from the UK shows the first real clear evidence that this virus can be transmitted person-to-person. **THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASES IN NORTH AMERICA.** Also, although the case fatality rate may be falsely elevated, it stands at 57%, and therefore there is concern that travelers from areas with cases, may pose a risk of transmission to areas where the virus has not previously occurred. SARS was another strain of Coronavirus and many of the recommendations being put in place by the WHO, ECDC (European Center for Disease Control), and the CDC are based on SARS guidelines, at least until more can be determined about this novel virus.

As with other novel viruses, the information available can rapidly change, even as often as day-to-day. There are currently no recommendations against travel or any travel restrictions from those areas affected, but those charged with public health are closely monitoring the situation.

Pre-hospital and other health care providers should be aware of the signs and symptoms associated with this disease and consider PPE and other infection control processes, in accordance with advice from local public health officials and/or local medical direction.

The current recommendation is to alert public health officials and evaluate those patients that develop a severe acute lower respiratory illness within 10 days of traveling from the Arabian Peninsula, or its neighboring countries (Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen).

Signs and symptoms are suggestive of an acute respiratory infection which could include fever (> 100.4° F), and cough, which may also present as pneumonia-like or ARDS when travel from one of the named areas has occurred within 10 days or someone with an acute respiratory illness has been in contact with someone in the last 10 days who was/is sick with an acute respiratory illness and has traveled in the noted areas.