

# PROCEDURE FOR SUSPECTED 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE (Version 1, 04/02/2020)



**1 CASE DEFINITION FOR PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR 2019-nCoV**  
 Patient with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) requiring hospitalisation or not  
**AND**  
 In the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, met at least one of the following epidemiological criteria:

- Were in close contact with a confirmed or probable cases of 2019-nCoV infection;

**OR**

- Had a history of travel to areas with presumed ongoing community transmission of 2019-nCoV (see NICD website); i.e. China

**OR**

- Worked in or attended a health care facility where patients with 2019-nCoV infections were being treated.

\* A close contact is defined as: A person having had face-to face contact or was in a closed environment with a 2019-nCoV cases; this includes, amongst others, all persons living in the same household as a 2019-nCoV case and, people working closely in the same environment as a case. A healthcare worker or other person providing direct care for a 2019-nCoV cases, while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g. gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection). A contact in an aircraft sitting within two seats (in all directions) of the 2019-nCoV case, travel companions or persons providing care, and crew members serving in the section of the aircraft where the index cases was seated.

**Infectious Diseases**

**Infectious Disease Specialist on call**

Tygerberg Hospital  
021-938-4911  
021-938-9645  
083-419-1452

Groote Schuur Hospital  
021-404-9111

**NICD Hotline**

082-883-9920

**National Health Operations Centre / Emergency Operations Centre**

**2 REPORT PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI)**

- **Public/Private health facility (hospital, community health centre etc.):** If a PUI is identified (e.g. at the Emergency Care), isolate in a suitable room/unit for assessment, apply infection prevention and control (IPC) measures (Standard Precautions, and Contact, Droplet, and Airborne Precautions as appropriate). Contact an Infectious Disease Specialist/Virologist at either Tygerberg or Groote Schuur Hospital (contacts provided) and the NICD Hotline.
- **Port of Entry (airport, harbour):** The Port Health Official should consult with the Tygerberg Hospital Infectious Diseases and the NICD Hotline on whether case fits the case definition. The EMS doctors will take over the management of the passenger/patient.
- **Notify Provincial Communicable Disease Control (CDC)** – notify the PUI case telephonically and complete a case notification form (paper-based or electronic).

**Western Cape DoH**

**Communicable Disease Control**

021-483-9964  
021-483-3156  
021-483-6878  
072-356-5146  
073-177-4735

**Provincial Health Operations Centre**  
021-937-0300

**3 TRANSPORT AND/OR REFERRAL OF PUI**

- Referral from Port Health (airport, harbour/sea) will be discussed with an Infectious Disease Specialist and EMS doctor. **All Port Health referrals will be directed to Tygerberg Hospital.**
- **All other public and private facilities need to be ready to manage a case/cases.** Decision on retaining patient at primary hospital (facility where case presented) or whether to transfer (indications/contra-indications for transfer) or discharge (monitor as outpatient) will be made in consultation with an Infectious Disease Specialist/Virologist, and according to drainage area.
- Forward list of close contacts of the PUI to the Provincial CDC and NICD at ncov@nicd.ac.za

**National Institute for Communicable Diseases:**

**CRDM, NICD**  
1 Modderfontein Road,  
Sandringham,  
Johannesburg  
011-555-0327  
011-386-6373  
(Call to arrange sample transport or confirm receipt)

**NHLS Medical Virology:**

**Virologist on call**

Tygerberg Hospital  
021 – 938-4911

Groote Schuur Hospital  
021 – 404-9111

**4 CLINICAL MANAGEMENT & LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS**

- Isolate the PUI and adhere to IPC precautions until discharge, or possibility of 2019-nCoV has been excluded (for hospitalised patients).
- Clinical and laboratory verification of diagnosis
  - Discuss plans to collect samples with doctor on call (NICD Hotline) before collecting
  - Respiratory samples (lower and upper tract) are the primary method of diagnosis
  - Acute and convalescent serum samples may be submitted in addition to respiratory ones
- Clinician to complete the *Patient under investigation (PUI) Form: Request for 2019-nCoV Testing AND Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis: Specimen Submission Form* before submitting specimens to NHLS/NICD. Scan completed forms and email to ncov@nicd.ac.za
- Inform NHLS Virology on processing of general bloods and transport of diagnostic bloods to the NICD. Discuss with virologist.
- Administer supportive therapy and monitoring as may be necessary and possible.
- Discharge patients not requiring hospitalization and monitor as outpatient until recover and educate patient and family on personal hygiene and basic IPC measures.

Rapidly enumerate all close contacts of PUI in healthcare and other settings AND follow up for 14 days. Contacts that develop symptoms will be isolated and tested as per PUI protocol.

**5 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE (multi-disciplinary)**  
 Provincial CDC and NDOH-NICD responsible, for coordination of all aspects of response in conjunction with different disciplines and role players, including:

- Convening of an outbreak control committee if necessitated by the circumstances
- Contact tracing and referral for investigation and treatment as appropriate
- Collate information and disseminate to those who need to be kept informed

**NB!** Use National 2019-nCoV Quick Reference for Healthcare Workers, and contact tracing and monitoring tools provided