

Subject: An Important Update About Coronavirus
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 7:22 PM
From: Wendy Bringas On Behalf Of Bo Boulenger
To: DG-BHSF Everyone; DG-BT Everyone Automated

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to closely monitor the ongoing outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in China. Initially thought to have originated from animal contact, the CDC has confirmed that person-to-person transmission is documented.

The CDC has confirmed six cases of coronavirus in the U.S. While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, the CDC has provided infection control recommendations and guidance for healthcare professionals on evaluating and reporting suspected cases.

Baptist Health is following the CDC guidelines and has a dedicated coronavirus preparedness planning team in place that is providing information and guidelines in terms of protocol, supplies and communication.

In our clinical areas, we need to be vigilant for patients or contacts of patients with recent travel to China who present with respiratory symptoms and fever. Since the symptoms are similar to common respiratory illnesses such as influenza, the key point for identifying suspected cases is the patient's travel and exposure history. Clinical employees should contact their supervisor with any questions regarding our protocol for suspected cases.

If you have recently traveled to China, or have been in contact with someone who is either suspected to have or confirmed to have 2019-nCoV, please call Baptist Health's Occupational Health Office immediately at (786) 596-2345. To ensure a safe working environment for everyone, you will need to receive clearance before reporting to work. You may also email EmployeeCVInfo@baptisthealth.net, a confidential inbox for employees' personal health concerns specific to coronavirus.

The CDC's most up to date information on 2019-nCoV can be found [here](#), and their guidance for healthcare professionals can be found [here](#). This information is updated several times a week. You can also keep up to date about coronavirus on Baptist Health's [Resource blog](#).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Our top priority is the health and safety of our employees and patients and their families. We will continue to communicate with you on this subject as needed.

Bo Boulenger
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer