



Health Alert Network Message 20-07: Novel Coronavirus Information for EMS/Emergency Responders/911

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February 10, 2020

Revision Dates (list all revision dates):

To EMS/Emergency Responders/911,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other [international locations](#), including [the United States](#). There are ongoing investigations to learn more.

Emergency medical services (EMS) play a vital role in responding to requests for assistance, triaging patients, and providing emergency medical treatment and transport for ill persons. However, unlike patient care in the controlled environment of a healthcare facility, care and transports by EMS present unique challenges because of the nature of the setting, enclosed space during transport, frequent need for rapid medical decision-making, interventions with limited information, and a varying range of patient acuity and jurisdictional healthcare resources.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has extensive resources to educate the Emergency Response community, entitled: Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for 2019-nCoV in the United States

The guidance can be located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

In addition, the State of Louisiana has produced an infographic for the Emergency Response community, attached.

For updated outbreak information please visit the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Page at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Immediately contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at 1-(800) 256-2748 if you suspect a patient with 2019-nCoV.