NOVEL CORONAVIRUS: LOCAL RESPONSE

Updated 2/6/20

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD) is working daily with our local health care partners and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to respond to the constantly evolving novel coronavirus. I would like to explain what is happening to help reassure our community.

Recently there was a report in the media that Champaign County has a “patient under investigation”. Neither IDPH nor CUPHD reports or comments on ongoing investigations into coronavirus. This is because guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is constantly being updated. CUPHD and IDPH follow the CDC guidance. CUPHD will report any confirmed cases of novel coronavirus within our jurisdiction.

How does screening work?
Local health care providers screen all persons entering their facilities to determine if they have respiratory symptoms (coughing, sneezing). If the patient has respiratory symptoms, they are asked to put on a mask to protect others. This is true for any respiratory symptoms which could be a common cold, influenza, or any number of other things. This is good infection control practice.

Healthcare facilities also ask all patients travel-related questions. If a patient with fever or respiratory symptoms has been to Mainland China within the past 14 days, the health care provider will complete a form that will be submitted to CUPHD. CUPHD, in consultation with IDPH, will determine if the information provided meets the criteria to send a specimen to the CDC for testing for the novel coronavirus. If they do, this patient is considered a “Patient Under Investigation” (PUI). This means that their specimens will be tested by the CDC.
Anyone who is a patient under investigation will be in isolation until the results are known. PUIs will remain in isolation until they have a negative test and their 14 day period has ended. Only household members or close contacts of confirmed cases are quarantined.

**What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?**

Isolation: separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. This can be done by staying in one’s own home, a hospital isolation room, or another location.

Quarantine: separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. This can be done in one’s own home or another location. If the person becomes ill, then they are said to be in isolation. Often this is in the same place - their home.

**Where can I get trusted information?**

CUPHD has placed a CORONAVIRUS page on our website. It has links to trusted sources like the IL Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and others. These sites are updated daily. You can trust the information that you receive from these sites.

[www.c-uphd.org](http://www.c-uphd.org)

Questions?

[coronavirus@c-uphd.org](mailto:coronavirus@c-uphd.org)

Sincerely,

Julie A. Pryde, MSW, MPH

CUPHD Administrator