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March 20, 2020

Dear Healthcare Providers,

This letter contains important information for providers regarding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The Detroit Health Department (DHD) response to COVID-19 is dependent upon health care providers remaining up-to-date on the latest guidance for management of possible infections and discussion around the outbreak with patients.

The COVID-19 outbreak was first identified in late 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Travelers from China continue to be screened at selected airports in the United States, including Detroit-Wayne Metropolitan (DTW) Airport. As of February 29, 2020, foreign national entry from Iran has also been suspended. DHD is monitoring travelers referred from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-DTW Quarantine that reside in our jurisdictions.

DHD continues to work in partnership with a variety of agencies to monitor the outbreak, including Detroit and Wayne County Departments, DTW, local healthcare facilities, WindsorEssex County, Canada, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and CDC.

Clinical presentation and treatment: Based on experience with other Coronaviruses, the COVID-19 incubation period is presumed to extend up to 14 days. The virus's transmission dynamics have yet to be determined. The primary clinical symptoms have included fever and lower respiratory symptoms, such as cough and shortness of breath. At this point, the number of people infected with COVID-19 that will develop severe illness is unclear. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for COVID-19. Supportive care should be initiated.

Case identification: To accurately identify potential cases of COVID-19, obtain a detailed travel history for any patient who is evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness to determine whether they meet the case definition for Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19. As of February 27, 2020, PUI Criteria has been updated to include China, Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea. Please use the following PUI form updated by MDHHS on February 27, 2020:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MDHHS_CDC_PUI_Form_and_Cover_Sheet_Fillable_v02.03.2020_680230_7.pdf

Specimen collection: Effective February 27, 2020, MDHHS has the capacity to conduct testing for COVID-19. If your facility identifies a PUI, please contact DHD for guidance to facilitate communication with MDHHS. If testing is approved, the health department will coordinate transport of specimens to MDHHS for testing. CDC recommends collecting upper

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respiratory (nasopharyngeal AND oropharyngeal swabs) and lower respiratory (sputum, if possible) specimens as soon as possible, regardless of time of symptom onset.

Infection prevention and control measures: CDC guidelines for infection prevention and control recommendations for Novel Coronavirus are online at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html>

PUIs should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified. PUIs should be placed in an Airborne Isolation Room (AIR) if possible, or private room with the door closed for evaluation. Health care personnel entering the room should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield). Please check the link regularly as the guidance may change.

PUIs in Outpatient Settings: If an individual being seen in an outpatient setting meets criteria for PUI, please contact the local health department immediately. Unless there is a medical requirement for the individual to be transferred to an emergency department, the person should remain in the outpatient setting until the next steps have been determined. As this assessment process occurs, if an airborne isolation room is unavailable, ensure that the individual is in a private room, with the door closed, and ask that they continue to wear a surgical mask if tolerated.

If you have questions about COVID-19, please contact us below. For the most up-to-date information, visit the CDC novel Coronavirus webpage for providers at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

Thank you for ensuring the safety of our communities. We are grateful for your work and dedication at the front lines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Najibah K. Rehman'.

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