Public Health England

Management of a suspected case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease

Does the patient have :

EITHER

- acute respiratory infection of any degree of severity (including at least one of: fever, shortness of breath or cough) **OR**
- severe acute respiratory infection requiring admission to hospital with clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome

YES → Has the patient lived in or travelled to Mainland China in the 14 days before onset of illness?

NO → Anyone who has had contact with a confirmed case of WN-CoV in the last 14 days should be reported to the local health protection team immediately

Has the patient lived in or travelled to Mainland China in the 14 days before onset of illness?

YES → Have they had contact with a confirmed case of WN-CoV in the 14 days before onset of illness?

NO → Have they had contact with a confirmed case of WN-CoV in the 14 days before onset of illness?

Have they had contact with a confirmed case of WN-CoV in the 14 days before onset of illness?

YES → Does the patient have risk factors for avian flu?

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YES → Refer to avian flu guidance (link)

NO → Consider alternative diagnoses

Primary care

- isolate the patient (and their belongings or waste) in a side room with the door closed
- do not physically examine the patient
- if consultation/examination had already started, leave the room and wash your hands
- seek specialist advice from a local microbiologist, virologist, or infectious diseases physician

Secondary care

- place the patient in respiratory isolation, and PPE is worn by any person entering the room
- seek specialist advice from a local microbiologist, virologist, or infectious diseases physician

Patient phone call

- advise the patient to stay at home whilst appropriate transport can be arranged

Notify the local PHE Health Protection Team by phone

Consider self isolation at home for patients who are clinically stable if safe transport home can be arranged

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Foot note - For further guidance:

Link to background information

Link to initial investigation of possible cases guidance

Link to infection prevention and control guidance

Link to primary care management guidance

Link to clinical diagnostic laboratories guidance