

To: Canadian Metrex Customers  
From: Product Management  
Date: January 30, 2020  
Subject: 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

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This memo is in response to the recent outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus or “2019-nCoV”, first identified in Wuhan, China. 2019-nCoV is an enveloped virus and is part of the family of viruses that includes other recent coronavirus outbreaks such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, 2003) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, 2012-2014).<sup>1</sup> As of January 30, 2020, 2019-nCoV has over 7,700 confirmed cases and over 170+ deaths.<sup>2</sup> Although cases have been reported mainly from Wuhan, there have also been confirmed cases in other parts of the globe including other regions in China, Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America<sup>1</sup>. There have also been 5 reported cases in the US and 3 reported cases in Canada as of this writing.<sup>1,5,6</sup>

There is limited information currently available to characterize the illness and transmission of 2019-nCoV. Typical transmission of coronaviruses is between animals. Rarely do coronaviruses evolve to be capable of animal-to-human and human-to-human transmission, such as with SARS and MERS.<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data suggests that has been human-to-human transmission of 2019-nCoV.<sup>3</sup>

Current WHO guidelines for infection prevention and control are adapted from what is known about MERS and SARS. Specifically,

- Ensuring triage, early recognition and source control<sup>4</sup>
- Application of Standard precautions for all patients<sup>4</sup>
- Implementation of empiric additional precautions (droplet and contact and whenever applicable airborne precautions) for suspected cases<sup>4</sup>
- Administrative controls<sup>4</sup>
- Environmental and engineering controls<sup>4</sup>

As new information becomes available, WHO will update these guidelines.

Standard precaution for all patients in infection prevention and control includes environmental disinfection, hand hygiene, and other precautions such as:

- Respiratory hygiene
- The use of personal protective equipment
- Injection safety practices
- Safe waste management
- Proper lines
- Sterilization of patient-care equipment

## **Environmental Disinfection**

Standard precaution regarding environmental disinfection for 2019-nCoV requires the use of a hospital grade surface disinfectant.<sup>3</sup> The following Metrex products are hard surface disinfectant drugs approved by Health Canada with a broad spectrum of virucidal claims: CaviWipes Bleach, CaviCide Bleach. Additionally, when used as directed, CaviWipes, CaviCide, CaviWipes1, CaviCide1, CaviWipes Bleach, and CaviCide Bleach are effective against human coronavirus.

## **Hand Hygiene**

WHO recommends using alcohol-based hand rub before and after all patient contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before putting on and upon removal of personal protective equipment (PPE). Hand hygiene in healthcare settings can also be performed by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water before returning to alcohol-based hand rub. VioNexus No-Rinse Spray is an alcohol-based hand rub used for hand hygiene.<sup>4</sup>

## References

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