

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Response

Talking Points for Staff

As of Monday, March 9, 2020

(This document will be updated as information becomes available)

On Friday evening, March 6, the first person in Nebraska to test positive for the novel coronavirus who wasn't a passenger on the Diamond Princess cruise ship was admitted to the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit, after a positive COVID-19 test at another Omaha hospital. The same evening, a health care worker from another Omaha health system with whom this patient had contact came to the National Quarantine Unit on the UNMC/Nebraska Medical Center campus because the provider had extenuating circumstances that did not allow them to quarantine at home.

In addition, Nebraska Medicine and UNMC continue to assist the federal government in support of rescued American citizens who had been on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. The majority of the individuals are being treated and monitored at the National Quarantine Unit, located on the Nebraska Medical Center/UNMC campus. Those that require additional care are transferred to the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit, as needed. We have created a section on our website with common [questions and answers](#) about coronavirus, as well as a [daily update](#) section. You'll find that on our home page: [NebraskaMed.com](#)"

Quick reference points:

- It's safe to come here
 - Their presence of those in the National Quarantine Unit and the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit do not create an elevated risk for anyone receiving care, visiting, working or studying at a Nebraska Medicine or UNMC facility, as they are in a completely separate part of the medical center
 - Our staff is well trained in proper methods to keep patients and each other safe
 - We are asking that colleagues politely restrict access to inpatient units from visitors who are experiencing cold or flu symptoms such as:
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Fever
 - Congestion
- There is no community spread of COVID-19, right now
 - The only confirmed cases of the virus are travel-related
- Nebraskans should prepare for the spread of COVID-19
 - Maintain a few weeks supply of food, medication and other necessary items in case it's necessary to stay home for a short period of time
 - Continue to practice good hand washing, covering your cough/sneeze, avoid touching your face and stay home if you are ill
- We are working closely with federal, state and local health officials
- Direct people with general coronavirus questions to:
 - Douglas County Health Department hotline (weekdays) at 402.444.3400
 - The questions and answers page on [NebraskaMed.com](#)