Collecting COVID-19 Material at a Medical University

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Guidance for students in caring for patients with COVID-19

March 16, 2020

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., and Nebraska Medicine CEO Jim Linder, M.D., sent the following message to UNMC students on March 16:

Dear UNMC Students and Extended Family,

As you know, these are extraordinary times with tremendous change occurring in our

Today, UNMC
Wed 2/5/2020 12:03 PM
To: The UNMC/Nebraska Medicine Community
From: Dr. Jim Linder, Nebraska Medicine CEO
       Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, UNMC Chancellor
RE: Coronavirus – our response

Members of the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine community,

You have no doubt heard about the potential of the federal government evacuating hundreds of Americans from China and bringing them back to the U.S. for medical monitoring because they have been in an area where the novel coronavirus has been found. Today, our partners in the federal government are announcing that a number of those rescued Americans will be coming to Nebraska. Details surrounding the expected time of arrival and number of people coming have yet to be confirmed. The plan calls for the group to spend their two-week monitoring period at Camp Ashland, a Nebraska National Guard facility. The group will be staying there under the auspices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR). These passengers will arrive at Eppley Airfield in a remote and isolated aircraft parking area and will NOT be inside the Eppley Airfield terminal. The arrival of the flight will have no impact on Omaha passengers, and flight operations at Eppley Airfield will remain normal and unaffected.
Personal Protective Equipment For 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The CDC requires strict adherence to Standard, Airborne, and Contact Precautions plus eye protection for the care of patients with or under investigation for COVID-19.

The necessary PPE required for the appropriate care of patients with or under investigation for COVID-19 at Nebraska Medicine are:

- Non-disposable isolation gown
- Fit tested N95 Respirator
- Face shield/eye protection
- Patient care gloves
- Gloves

Donning PPE

Don PPE in the following order:
1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Gown
3. N95 Respirator
4. Face shield/eye protection
5. Gloves

As you provide care to patients with COVID-19, take precautions to keep from contaminating yourself or your PPE.

Doffing PPE

Doffing PPE begins in the patient room at the exit. Position yourself close to the exit with a waste container and linen hamper within reach.

Doff PPE in the following order:
1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Gown
3. Gloves
4. Perform hand hygiene
5. Face shield/eye protection
6. Exit patient room (only PPE remaining is your N95 respirator)
7. Perform hand hygiene
8. N95 Respirator
9. Perform hand hygiene

Prior to Donning PPE

- Donning PPE must always take place in an area where it is safe to be without PPE such as the hallway or the nurse server.
- Gather all PPE items and place in one location such as an isolation cart or nurse server outside of the patient room.
- Don all PPE prior to entering the patient care area.

Linen and Waste

Linen and waste do not require special handling for COVID-19.
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