Rhode Island Hospital
The Miriam Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care.

To: Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital Medical Staff House Staff Officers, Nursing Managers, and Lifespan Laboratories Outreach Clients

From: Kimberle Chapin, MD
Director Microbiology

Date: January 27, 2020

Subject: 2019-nCoV – Novel Coronavirus

Additional information is being provided in response to questions about the novel Coronavirus identified in Wuhan China, current testing provided by the Lifespan Microbiology Laboratory and requirements for testing of 2019-nCoV coordinated with the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH)

Microbiology Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP)
- The Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) performed in the Lifespan Microbiology Laboratory does NOT detect the novel 2019-nCoV strain.
- The Human Coronavirus detected on the RPP panel, or any FDA-cleared Respiratory panel in the US, do NOT cross react with the 2019-nCoV strain.
- Patients with a result of Coronavirus DETECTED with the RPP DO NOT have the 2019-nCoV strain. The RPP only detects previously known Human Coronavirus strains currently circulating in the US population.

Current Respiratory Epidemiology in RI
Providers should be aware that Influenza-like illness continues to be high in the local area with patients presenting with several viruses:

Testing for the 2019-nCoV virus
- The provider must contact the RI DOH Epidemiology Dept. at 401-222-2577 (8AM - 430PM, or 401-276-8046 after hours) and fill out a person under investigation (PUI) form PRIOR to the DOH accepting specimens
The following link provided by the DOH contains the required PUI form and the specimens required for testing.
- [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)](https://send.aphl.org)

Questions about testing can be addressed to Kimberle Chapin MD, Director of Microbiology at 401-444-5273 or kchapin@lifespan.org