2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019NCoV)

Definition of clinical case:
If the patient satisfies epidemiological and clinical criteria, they are classified as a possible case.

Current Epidemiological criteria: In the 14 days before the onset of illness travel to Wuhan, Hubei Province, China OR contact (see definition below) with confirmed cases of WN-CoV

Current Clinical criteria:

- severe acute respiratory infection requiring admission to hospital with clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome

OR

- acute respiratory infection of any degree of severity (including at least one of: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat)

Clinicians should be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in patients who are immunocompromised.

Current Definition of a contact:
For the purposes of testing, contact with a case is defined as:

- living in the same household

OR

- direct contact with the case or their body fluids or their laboratory specimens, or in the same room of a healthcare setting when an aerosol generating procedure is undertaken on the case
- within 2 metres of the case in any other setting not listed above, for any length of time

An assessment for avian influenza risk factors should also be carried out for every individual that has travelled to China in the 10 days prior to onset of fever and lower respiratory tract symptoms.
Suspected case

If a suspected case meets the criteria and the case has been discussed with ID Consultant please contact the West of Scotland Specialist Virology Centre, 0141 201 8721 (9am to 5pm) or switchboard 0141 211 4000 (out-of-hours, including weekends, ask to speak to on call virologist) to arrange testing.

Specimen requirements

Duplicate URT and LRT respiratory specimens for each case need to be taken (see table). This will allow specimens to be tested locally at WoSSVC for respiratory pathogens and avian influenza and the second set to be tested at PHE for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019N-CoV). Please note: Colindale require urine and faeces as well as clotted and EDTA bloods however, faeces and urine may be difficult to obtain at time of initial investigations, do not hold up sending respiratory and blood specimens to WoSSVC, faeces and urine can be sent at a later date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WoSSVC sample set</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper respiratory tract (URT) specimen: combined viral nose and throat swab or viral nose swab and viral throat swab or nasopharyngeal aspirate</td>
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<td>Lower respiratory tract (LRT) specimen: sputum, endotracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) if bronchoscopy is clinically indicated. <strong>INDUCTION OF SPUTUM SHOULD BE AVOIDED.</strong></td>
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<td>EDTA whole blood (5ml)</td>
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<td>Faeces (5ml) in universal container</td>
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Point of Care Testing (POCT)

Please note that the Cobas® LIAT Influenza A/B and RSV test **SHOULD NOT BE PERFORMED** if a patient fits the case definition for 2019 NCoV (Novel Wuhan Coronavirus). Such patients should be discussed with the West of Scotland Specialist Virology Centre (WoSSVC).

For further information regards 2019 NCoV (including clinical and laboratory guidelines) please see HPS website via the following link: [https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/](https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/)

Transport of specimens to WoSSVC:

All samples from potential cases should be packaged and transported in accordance with **Category B transportation** regulations. UN 3373 packaging must be used for sample transport. There are UN3373 boxes which have been distributed to various sites, when you contact WoSSVC they will be able to guide you to the locations. These boxes will have “Urgent viral Respiratory Testing”.

Please send two boxes to WoSSVC, one box containing the specimens for local testing (a URT and LRT specimen) and one for PHE (URT & LRT specimen, blood and (if available), faeces and urine. Please write WoSSVC on the box for local laboratory testing and PHE for the one to send away to Colindale.

Please place samples in individual sealed sample bags before placing in secondary rigid plastic tub. The tub may already contain absorbent material squares if not please add paper hand towel or some similar absorbent material.

The requesting clinician should also fill out an E28 (Testing for Wuhan CoV) PHE form. If the form is not filled out and in the box with the specimens going to PHE, PHE will NOT test the specimens. **DO NOT PLACE THE COMPLETED FORM INSIDE THE SOLID PLASTIC CONTAINER WITH THE SPECIMENS.** Place the completed form in a plastic specimen bag and place it inside the cardboard box along with the sealed container of specimens. See the WoSSVC website for the form: [https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/professional-support-sites/laboratory-medicine/laboratory-disciplines/microbiology-and-virology/west-of-scotland-specialist-virology-centre/](https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/professional-support-sites/laboratory-medicine/laboratory-disciplines/microbiology-and-virology/west-of-scotland-specialist-virology-centre/)
WoSSVC cut-off for testing:

The specimens being sent for 2019N-CoV are required to be sent to Colindale, London. WoSSVC will upon receipt of the specimens contact the courier and arrange the specimens to be sent away. **Specimens MUST BE IN THE LABORATORY BY 8pm** if they are to be sent away that evening, this will allow specimens to arrive at PHE in time for their testing deadline. Please note there is a 24 to 48 hour TRT for 2019 N-CoV testing at PHE. Specimens arriving after 8pm can be sent to the out-of-hour’s urgent virology/microbiology box at PRM emergency admission, Wishart Street Entrance. The specimens will then be sent by courier the following day (https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/professional-support-sites/laboratory-medicine/laboratory-disciplines/microbiology-and-virology/west-of-scotland-specialist-virology-centre/out-of-hours-sample-delivery-inc-map/).

The timing of testing a patient at WoSSVC for other respiratory pathogens (influenza A, influenza B, RSV, adenovirus, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, parainfluenza 1-4, seasonal coronavirus, rhinovirus, and human metapneumovirus) and avian influenza will be decided on a case by case after discussion with the requesting clinician and the WoSSVC.

References:
https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/