Mission: The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for minimizing the impact of natural and man-made disasters by establishing readiness through city-wide prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

Current Preparedness Level: SEMS is the system required by Government Code §8607 (a) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies in California. SEMS provides for a multiple level emergency response organization and is intended to structure and facilitate the flow of emergency information and resources within and between the organizational levels.

MEMORANDUM

To: Public Safety Subcommittee
From: Zuzzette Bricker, Office of Emergency Management Program Manager
Date: February 1, 2020
Subject: January 2020 Office of Emergency Management Report

Novel Coronavirus in China

Riverside County health officials are monitoring the spread of coronavirus and report there are no local cases in Riverside County. County health officials have been working with state and federal representatives from Center for Disease Control (CDC), Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), State Department, and March Air Reserve Base (MARB) to monitor the traveler evacuated from China and brought to MARB, ensuring the safety of our community from the novel coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak.

Health officials recently announced the illness, which originated in Wuhan, China, has spread to Southern California with one case each in adjacent Orange and Los Angeles counties as well as two others in Santa Clarita. The incubation period for nCoV and other related coronaviruses is believed to be approximately two weeks. Even though travel from Wuhan has been closed by the Chinese government, it seems likely there will be additional cases detected in California.
Background

CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (named “2019-nCoV”) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. Chinese health officials have reported thousands of infections with 2019-nCoV in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person in many parts of that country. Infections with 2019-nCoV, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, also are being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States.

Source and Spread of the Virus

Chinese health authorities were the first to post the full genome of the 2019-nCoV in GenBank, the NIH genetic sequence database, and in the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) portal, an action which has facilitated detection of this virus. CDC posted the full genome of the 2019-nCoV virus detected in the first and second U.S. patients to GenBank.

2019-nCoV is a beta coronavirus, like MERS and SARS, all of which have their origins in bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one that China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by 2019-nCoV in Wuhan, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Chinese officials report that sustained person-to-person spread in the community is occurring in China.
Situation in U.S.

Imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in people have been detected in the U.S. One person-to-person spread has been detected of this virus this time. With a total of 12 cases in the United States.

Illness Severity

Both MERS and SARS have been known to cause severe illness in people. The complete clinical picture with regard to 2019-nCoV is still not fully clear. Reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Learn more about the symptoms associated with 2019-nCoV.

Travel Advisory

**Warning Level 3 (Red): Avoid all non-essential travel** to this destination. The outbreak is of high risk to travelers and no precautions are available to protect against the identified increased risk.

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

Treatment

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection. People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions. People who think they may have been exposed to 2019-nCoV should contact your healthcare provider immediately.
There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available. Office of Emergency Management will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates.

Links:
https://rivcoph.org/coronavirus.aspx

Reference:
CDC and National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases