Date: January 27, 2020  
To: Healthcare Providers  
From: Maura Esposito, Health Director  
Re: 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to closely monitor an outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China that began in December 2019. Infections with 2019-nCoV also are being reported in a growing number of countries internationally, including the United States, where the first 2019-nCoV infection was detected in a traveler returning from Wuhan on January 21, 2020.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), working with the CDC, will conduct surveillance and facilitate testing for individuals who may be at risk of infection. Up-to-date information regarding this rapidly evolving situation can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html  
Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. While both MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV have been known to cause severe illness in people, the situation regarding 2019-nCoV is still unclear. Severe illness, including illness resulting in several deaths, has been reported in China, while other patients have had milder illness and been discharged.

CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. No vaccine or specific treatment for 2019-nCoV infection is available; care is supportive. When person-to-person spread has occurred with MERS and SARS, it is thought to have happened via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, like how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. Spread of SARS and MERS between people has generally occurred between close contacts.

If you suspect you might have been exposed to the novel-coronavirus 2019 or if you have any questions or concerns; please call 203-272-2761.
More information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization:
CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/  
WHO: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Sincerely,

Maura A. Esposito  
Maura A. Esposito, MPH, RS  
Director of Health  
Chesprocott Health District

Kathryn Glendon  
Kathryn Glendon, MPH, CHES, CPS  
Public Health Specialist  
Chesprocott Health District

Chesprocott Health District is an equal opportunity employer