



January 27, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As some of you might have learned, the Orange County Health Care Agency recently released that an individual has tested positive for coronavirus. Subsequently, we have had inquiries, from both front-line employees, and physicians that this individual is hospitalized at one of our Orange County Medical Centers. **This is not accurate information.** At this time, the location of the individual, and how the virus was contracted, has not been released and we do not know any additional information.

It is important for you to know, that Kaiser Permanente has been continually monitoring the situation and preparing for any cases that might present in our membership base. **Again, at this time no members have been diagnosed with the virus.**

Coronavirus is a member of the same family of viruses that causes colds. This new coronavirus does not appear to be highly transmissible nor severe but, similar to more virulent strains in this virus family – including SARS and MERS, coronavirus can progress to pneumonia. Typical symptoms include fever, cough and respiratory difficulty. Treatment is similar to that for other viral infections.

Kaiser Permanente has decided not to screen all patients for the disease at this time, but physicians and other caregivers are asking members and patients with fever or other symptoms about recent travel to China, and other areas of risk, as they are identified. Those who have symptoms and recently traveled to high risk areas will be isolated until they have been medically evaluated.

If members, or their children have recently traveled to an area of risk and are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus, we encourage them to call the appointment and advice line so we can assist with directing their care. To reduce possible exposure to others, we prefer that members who have recently traveled and are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus not make an appointment online or go directly to one of our facilities.

Like many global disease outbreaks, information tends to change and evolve. As more information is learned, and shared with us, we will inform you as well.

Should you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to your Supervisor and Physician Leader. For any media inquiries, please forward to Public Affairs.

Thank you.

Your Orange County MSAAT,

