Disease Surveillance Checklist*

Tracking the progress of a fast-spreading diseases like the coronavirus is of vital importance. Health care facilities treating affected patients will need regular and frequent updates on the status of the virus, treatment guidelines, and infection control protocols. Regular communication with agencies, such as WHO, CDC, and state and local health departments that will be developing and modifying case definitions for the disease, is critical. Provider organizations should think about the following to ensure they are kept abreast of the most current information.

✓ Has a state or local public health agency been designated or established from which the organization can receive updates on virus progression, including disease transmission and symptom characteristics?

✓ Are surveillance updates immediately provided to emergency medical services (EMS) providers? Does the EMS agency have a protocol for ensuring road crews are updated? Have clinical screening and treatment protocols been developed and distributed to EMS personnel?

✓ Has a state or local public health agency been designated or established from which the organization can receive the most recent treatment and infection control guidance from the CDC?

✓ Does the organization have patient-encounter or interview forms that are sufficient to identify possible cases of coronavirus? If so, has front-line medical staff been trained on using the form?

✓ Does the organization have plans in place to conduct initial patient screenings outside the facility, and thus separate possible cases of coronavirus from other health conditions?

✓ If a patient is identified as a possible case of coronavirus, does the organization have proper protocols in place for following CDC’s reporting and disposition guidelines?

*Adapted from the Community Pan-Flu Preparedness: A Checklist of Key Legal Issues for Health Care Providers (2015). © 2020 American Health Lawyers Association. All rights reserved.