

## **Update 1 (27<sup>th</sup> of January 2020)**

### **Information about Infection disease novel Corona-virus 2019-nCoV**

**Force Health Protection Branch FHPB (former DHSC) NATO MILMED COE  
in Munich**

**27<sup>th</sup> of January 2020**

email: [info.dhsc@coemed.org](mailto:info.dhsc@coemed.org)

#### **Background about novel Corona-virus**

An outbreak of pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan City was initially reported to WHO on December 31, 2019. Chinese health authorities have confirmed more than 40 infections with a novel coronavirus as the cause of the outbreak. Reportedly, most patients had epidemiological links to a large seafood and animal market. 8 patients identified without any contact to the seafood and animal market.

Coronaviruses are common in many different species of animals, including camels and bats. Rarely, these coronaviruses can evolve and infect humans and then spread between humans. Recent examples of this include SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV.

Most coronaviruses infect animals, but not people. In the future, one or more of these other coronaviruses could potentially evolve and spread to humans, as has happened in the past. Science does not know why only certain coronaviruses are able to infect people.

The virus has been identified as a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first occurred in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. It has resulted in hundreds of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City, with additional cases being identified in a growing number of countries internationally.

#### **WHO confirmed that Corona-virus 2019-nCoV can be transmitted from person to person!**

Human-to-human transmission has been demonstrated; several family clusters in China and outside China and cases among health-care workers have been reported. In addition, Chinese authorities presented evidence to the WHO Emergency Committee that sustained (4<sup>th</sup> generation) human-to-human transmission is documented in Wuhan and second-generation cases have been documented outside Wuhan.

#### **Situation:**

World wide 2.800 Cases (27<sup>rd</sup> of January 2020)

- 2.744 cases were reported from China
- 53 confirmed cases have been reported outside of China in 14 countries:  
Thailand 5, Hongkong 8, Macao 6, Japan 4, Republic of Korea 3, USA 5, Canada 1, Vietnam 2, Taiwan 4, Singapore 4, Australia 4, Malaysia 3, Nepal 1, France 3.
- National authorities are conducting active case finding in all provinces in China
- China has reported that 70 of the patients have died
- China treats the disease as a highest priority infection, so the strictest prevention and control measures apply

- Public Transportation and all Airports from and to Wuhan/Hubei are closed!
- All public places (market, internet cafes, cinemas, entertainment parks, schools and cultural sites) were closed in Wuhan and in at least 10 cities close to Wuhan
- Disinfection measure from all public places in China
- As for other corona-virus infection no vaccine or specific treatment for 2019-nCoV infection is available; care is supportive
- Other vaccine like Influenza or Pneumococcus do not offer protection against the novel corona-virus 2019-nCoV

### **Clinician Information:**

Healthcare providers should obtain detailed travel history for patients with

- Fever
- Coughing
- sniffing
- shortness of breath
- respiratory rate more than 30 bpm
- hypoxemia
- chest X-ray with multi-lobar infiltrates or pulmonary infiltration progressed more than 50% within 24 – 48 hours

World Health organisation assumes a current incubation period range from 2-14 days. A transmission can also take place during this time.

These estimates will be refine as more data become available.

### **Area of Risk:**

Travelers to China or from China to other countries should be aware of basic principles reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals (alive or dead)
- avoiding close contact animal markets
- avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections
- frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment
- travellers with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands)
- no travel if you feel sick
- in case of upcoming fever or respiratory symptoms seek medial support
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs
- Within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments

### **General measures and information:**

Health authorities affected countries can instruct high preventive measure like control temperature at airports or public places, identify contact persons or isolate patients.

As protection for travellers should be a frequent hand-washing, cover coughs and sneezes

with disposable tissues or clothing and avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infection.

#### References:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC; [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- World Health Organization WHO; [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control [www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)

**This notice will be updated as more information becomes available!**