Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak
2019 - 2020
Update #1 22.01.20
What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that infect both animals and humans. Human coronaviruses can cause mild disease similar to a common cold, while others cause more severe disease (such as MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). Some coronaviruses that are found in animals can infect humans – these are known as zoonotic diseases.

How are coronaviruses spread?

Human coronaviruses are usually spread through by droplets (coughing) and close personal unprotected contact with an infected person (touching, shaking hands).

What are the symptoms?

Signs and symptoms are typically respiratory symptoms and include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other cold-like symptoms.
What is known about the disease identified in Wuhan China?

• It is caused by a novel coronavirus (called 2019-nCoV)
• Infection with this virus causes respiratory disease ranging from mild to severe disease.
• Some infected patients have died from infection (people with serious underlying medical conditions are more at risk for severe disease and death)

What is NOT known about the disease?

• Where it came from?
• How easily is it spreads between people?
• Who is vulnerable to infection?
Zoonotic diseases and human spread

1. Transmission between animal hosts
2. Transmission from animal host to humans
3. Transmission between humans

Zoonotic transmission → Amplification
Timeline of the outbreak

Dec 2019

- 1st case December 12
- Cases linked to a Seafood Market in Wuhan City China

January Week 1
30.12 – 05.01

- Diagnostic test developed & confirms 41 cases in China
- Thailand reports 1 case
- 1 death reported in China

Week 2
06.01 - 12.01

- China reports to WHO a total of 59 patients with pneumonia of unknown etiology

Week 3
13.01 - 19.01

- Japan reports 1 case
- Thailand reports a second case
- A second death reported in China

Week 4
20.01 - 26.01

- Total of 440 confirmed cases in China, 4 in Thailand, 1 in Japan, 1 in Republic of Korea, 1 in the United States of America
- A total of 6 deaths reported
- Of the 440 cases, 16 are health care workers
- Of the 440 cases 51 are severe cases
- Some human to human transmission is occurring

Officially reported data as of 22.01.2020 09:00 CET
Important events

- Initial cases all linked to Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan City, China. The Market was closed 01.01.20 for environmental sanitation and disinfection.
- On 10 January, WHO launched a website with updated general and travel guidance [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus).
- On 11 January, China shared the genetic sequence of nCoV enabling the rapid development of diagnostic tests.
- The cases in Thailand, Japan and Republic of Korea were all travelers from Wuhan City.
What is being done to control the outbreak?

What are affected countries doing?

- Remaining vigilant for new cases and providing care for existing cases
- Implementing screening of travelers
- Sharing information with WHO and other countries

What is WHO doing?

- Supporting affected countries and providing guidance on how to manage the outbreak
- Working with global networks of researchers and experts to deliver accurate, updated information
- Delivering accurate, timely information to the world
Stay healthy and protect yourself from infection

**Public health advice: summary**

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose with a medical mask, tissue, or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing. Wash hands afterwards and discard mask or tissue.
- Avoid unprotected close contact with people with fever and cough and seek medical care if you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
- If you become sick while travelling, inform crew, seek medical attention early and share travel history.
- When visiting live markets, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals.

06/02/2020
Safe travel guidance
Advice for travel by air, boat and train

Stay healthy while travelling

Before you depart:
Avoid travel if you have a fever and cough

If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical attention and share previous travel history with your health care provider

During travel:
- Avoid close contact with people suffering from a fever and cough
- Frequently wash hands by using alcohol based hand rub or soap and water
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing and wash hands afterwards
- If you choose to wear a face mask, be sure to cover mouth and nose. Avoid touching mask once it’s on, immediately discard single-use mask after each use and wash hands after removing masks.
- If you become sick while travelling, inform crew and seek medical attention
- If you seek medical attention, share travel history with your health care provider
Food safety guidance

Practise food safety

Even in areas experiencing outbreaks, meat products can be safely consumed if these items are cooked thoroughly and properly handled during food preparation.

Practise food safety

Use different chopping boards and knives for raw meat and cooked foods.

Wash your hands between handling raw and cooked food.

Practise food safety

Sick animals and animals that have died of diseases should not be eaten.
Working in wet markets?
Stay healthy!

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water after touching animals and animal products.
- Disinfect equipment and working area at least once a day.

Shopping in wet markets?
Stay healthy!

- Wash hands with soap and water after touching animals and animal products.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid contact with sick animals and spoiled meat.
- Avoid contact with stray animals, waste and fluids in market.

Working in wet markets?
Stay healthy!

- Wear protective gowns, gloves and facial protection while handling animals and fresh animal products.
- Remove protective clothing after work, wash daily and leave and the work site.
- Avoid exposing family members to soiled work clothing and shoes.
Guidance for shopping in wet markets

Stay healthy at markets

• Wash hands with soap and water after touching animals and animal products

• Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth

• Avoid contact with sick animals and spoiled meat

• Avoid contact with stray animals, waste and fluids in market

• Avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals
Guidance for working in wet markets

Stay healthy at markets

- Frequently washing hands with soap and water after touching animals and animal products
- Disinfect equipment and working area at least once a day
- Wear protective gowns, gloves and facial protection while handling animals and fresh animal products
- Remove protective clothing after work, wash daily and leave at the work site
- Avoid exposing family members to soiled work clothing and shoes
More information

WHO sources:

NCoV website https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

Disease Outbreak News https://www.who.int/csr/don/en/

WHO Travel Advice https://www.who.int/ith/en/