Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
2019 - 2020
Update #8  14.02.20
New information

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Number of new cases* of COVID-19 per day, by date of reporting

*Laboratory confirmed cases only

Source: WHO situation reports: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports that include information reported to WHO Geneva by 10 AM CET on the date of publication.
Change in reporting cases of COVID-19 in Hubei, China

- Up to 13 February China had reported 46,550 laboratory confirmed cases.
- On 13 February the reporting modalities changed in Hubei, adding a new category of clinically confirmed cases (this was applied retrospectively for a period).
- Therefore, on 14 February China reported a cumulative total of 63,932 confirmed cases which includes 47,505 laboratory confirmed cases in all of China and 16,427 clinically confirmed cases in Hubei (based on symptoms and CT scan).
- The spike is due to the change in reporting in Hubei Province.
- **This change allows patients to access treatment more quickly.**

Credit: Euronews
Human-to-human transmission is occurring via droplets, contact and fomites.

- Droplet transmission is occurring among close contacts including family members and healthcare workers.
- Airborne transmission is currently not considered a major route of transmission although it may happen during certain medical procedures (as evidence suggests from other coronaviruses).
- Although genetic material from the virus has been detected in faeces, scientists to date have been unable to recover live virus. The faecal-oral route is currently not considered a major route of transmission.
COVID-19 estimates on clinical severity (n=17185)

- 3% critical
- 15% severe
- 82% mild

Source: China NHC
The latest science on the incubation period

Current estimates of the incubation period range from 1-12.5 days with median estimates of 5-6 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Most likely value</th>
<th>Plausible range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liu et al.</td>
<td>4.8 days (±2.6 days)</td>
<td>2–11 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backer &amp; Wallinga</td>
<td>6.4 days (95%CI: 5.6-7.7)</td>
<td>2.1 – 11.1 days (2.5 &amp; 97.5 percentile)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linton</td>
<td>4-5 days</td>
<td>2-9 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zheng</td>
<td>5.174 days</td>
<td>(CI: 4.46-6.037)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li et al.</td>
<td>5.2 days</td>
<td>(95% CI, 4.1 to 7.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauer</td>
<td>5.2 days - median (mean: 5.5)</td>
<td>(95% CI 4.4-6.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guan</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>Range: 0–24 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yang Yang et al.</td>
<td>4.75 days</td>
<td>IQR: 3.0-7.2 days</td>
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</table>
Outcomes of the global research and innovation forum

11-12 February, Geneva
Creating a COVID-19 research roadmap

Organized by WHO and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GLOPID-R). This two-day meeting brought together scientists, researchers, ethics experts, regulatory experts and funders from all over the world (both physically and on-line) to plan how to increase understanding of this disease, its reservoirs, its transmission, its clinical severity and how to develop effective counter-measures that are critical for the control of this outbreak and reducing the human suffering.

Thematic areas:
1. The Virus and diagnostic tests
2. The human-animal inter-face
3. Epidemiology
4. Clinical aspects
5. Infection Prevention and Control
6. Drug development
7. Vaccine development
8. Ethical considerations for research
9. Social sciences in the outbreak response
10. Funding and governance
“This meeting allowed us to identify the main urgent priorities for research. As a group of funders, we will continue to mobilize and coordinate to ensure support is in place for all critical research needed to tackle this crisis and stop the outbreak in partnership with WHO.”

Yazdan Yazdanpanah
Chair GLOPID-R
Key risk communication messages for the week
Question: How is the new coronavirus shared from person to person?

Answer: The new coronavirus is shared or transmitted from person to person when one person talks, sneezes or coughs producing ‘droplets’ of saliva containing virus that are then breathed in by another person. These droplets can also land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby.

What can I do? Cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze with your elbow or disposable tissue. Encourage others to do the same.

Explanation

Droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can contain virus. People who breath in droplets of someone who is coughing and sneezing can catch the virus.

Droplet transmission is like taking a spray bottle of water and squirting it into the air. Some of the droplets may land on and be breathed in by others. Imagine those spray droplets contain a virus that can make people sick if breathed into their lungs.
Question: What is the most effective protection measure against the new coronavirus or COVID-19?

Answer: You might be surprised to hear that hand washing is the most effective means of preventing all virus infections including COVID-19.

What can I do? Wash hands frequently

Explanation

* Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, if your hands are visibly dirty, or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty.

* Wear a face mask only if you are unwell and experiencing respiratory illness.
Question: Do I need a mask to protect myself against COVID-19?

Answer: No, the best thing you can do to protect yourself from COVID-19 is to simply wash your hands. If you’re healthy, WHO recommends to simply wash your hands and save the face masks for doctors and nurses who need them everyday.

What can I do? Wash hands frequently and remind others to do so too.

Explanation

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, if your hands are visibly dirty, or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty. This is a better way to avoid catching COVID-19.

If you’re feeling healthy, you don’t need a face mask. They should only be used by health care workers, people who have a cough, sneezing and fever or for people caring for someone with these symptoms.

Health workers need to use face masks because they come into contact with a number of sick people. Globally masks need to be prioritized for use by doctors and nurses who need them the most.
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/

Email: EPI-WIN@who.int

Website: www.EPI-WIN.com