On 30 January 2020, Director-General WHO declared that the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) as per the advice of International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee.

- As on 31st January 2020, a total of 9720 confirmed cases and 213 deaths have been reported in China. The epicenter of the outbreak was initially in Wuhan City, Hubei province but has rapidly extended to all other provinces of China.
- Outside of China, 19 countries have reported a total of 106 confirmed cases, most with travel history from China. These countries are Australia (9), Cambodia (1), Canada (3), Finland (1), France (6), Germany (5), India (1), Italy (2), Japan (14), Malaysia (8), Nepal (1), Philippines (1), Singapore (13), South Korea (11), Sri Lanka (1), Thailand (14), UAE (4), USA (6), and Vietnam (5).
On 30 January 2020, a laboratory confirmed case of 2019-nCoV was reported in Kerala. The patient, a student returning from Wuhan, is currently in stable condition and cared for in hospital isolation.

The Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Health, Family and Welfare (MoHFW) are closely monitoring 2019-nCoV situation and intensifying preparedness and response efforts.

Surveillance is being strengthened and enhanced at points of entry, in health facilities and in the community including contact tracing and follow up around the confirmed case.

Public health preparedness including surveillance, diagnostics, hospital preparedness, infection prevention and control, logistics and risk communication is being constantly reviewed by the national and state health authorities. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has activated Strategic Health Operations Centre (SHOC) room to provide command and control functions and a helpline (+91-11-23978046) opened to answer public queries.

MoHFW and Ministry of Civil Aviation have initiated inflight announcements and entry screening for symptoms of fever and cough for travelers coming from China at 21 airports of India. Travel advisories
have been issued and signages have been put in place. So far, a total of 234 flights and 43346 passengers have been screened.

- MoHFW issued a travel advisory advising Indians to avoid non-essential travel to China.
- National Institute of Virology, Pune, equipped with international standards of expertise and capacity, has been testing samples of nCoV. So far 49 samples have been tested, of which 48 were negative.
- From 31 January 2020, 12 additional labs have started to function: (1) NIV Bengaluru, (2) Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru (3), AIIMS, New Delhi (4), NCDC, New Delhi (5) Kasturba Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Mumbai (6) NIV Kerala, (7) ICMR – NICED, Kolkata (8) GMC, Secunderabad (9) KGMU, Lucknow (10) SMS, Jaipur (11) IGGMC, Nagpur and (12) KIPMR, Chennai.
- In villages bordering Nepal, gram panchayats are being organized to make people more aware regarding the symptoms, precautions and measures taken by the State Governments regarding prevention and management for 2019-nCoV.
- MoHFW has advised States to open their control rooms, appoint a nodal officer and popularize the control room number to enhance coordination between actors.
- Development and adaption of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials in local languages is being done by the concerned States.
- Since beginning of January 2020, WHO India as a member of the Joint Monitoring Group and through other means has been providing MoHFW, NCDC, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with technical advice, guidance and resources for enhanced vigilance, preparedness and response to 2019-nCoV at both national and sub-national level.
- WHO India continues to maintain regular communication with WHO South-East Asia Regional Office and WHO Headquarters as well as MoHFW, NCDC, ICMR, other agencies and countries through International Health Regulations (IHR) mechanisms.

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE DO?

Protect yourself from illness with respiratory pathogens by practicing hand and respiratory hygiene:

- *Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.***
- *People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).***
- *Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.*
- *Within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.*
Reduce your risk of coronavirus infection:

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands
- Avoid close contact with anyone that has fever and cough
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs
- Avoid unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals

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