



Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Infection January 2020

Epidemiology:

The new Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that was first identified in a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Most of the cases have had exposure to a large seafood and animal market.



Mode of Transmission:

The mode(s) of transmission of the 2019-nCoV are currently unknown. Available information suggests that the 2019-nCoV is zoonotic and causes infections in humans through contact with infected animals. Current data also suggest human-to-human transmission.

Clinical Feature:

Most of the cases have shown respiratory symptoms, fever, shortness of breath and pneumonia.

Treatment:

Currently, there is no known treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals. Intensive supportive care with the treatment of symptoms is the main approach to manage the infection in people.

Case Definition:

- **Suspected Case:** A person with acute respiratory illness (fever with cough and/or shortness of breath) AND any of the following:
 1. A history of travel to China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset.
 2. A close physical contact in the past 14 days with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV infection.
- **Confirmed Case:** A suspected case with laboratory confirmation of 2019-nCoV infection.

Laboratory Diagnosis:

At this stage, the laboratory testing for 2019-nCoV is performed at the National Public Health Lab ONLY. Testing is performed to confirm a clinically suspected case and to screen contacts. Interim guidance on laboratory testing issued by WHO is accessible at:

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/laboratory-testing-for-2019-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-2019-nCoV\)-insuspected-human-cases](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/laboratory-testing-for-2019-novel-coronavirus-(2019-2019-nCoV)-insuspected-human-cases)



Sample collection:

It is advised that lower respiratory specimens such as sputum, endotracheal aspirate, or Broncho alveolar lavage be used when possible. If patients do not have signs or symptoms of lower respiratory tract infection or lower tract specimens are not possible or clinically indicated, nasopharyngeal specimens should be collected (similar to MERS sample collection).

Infection Control Preventions Measure in Healthcare Facilities:

1. Compliance with WHO 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene is mandatory.
2. Visual triage at the entry point of the healthcare facility, for early identification of all patients with acute respiratory illness.
3. Practice standard, contact and Airborne precautions while handling 2019-nCoV patient (suspected/confirmed), or any related specimens.
4. All healthcare workers shall wear the fit-tested N95 mask and complete a fit check each time they don the mask/PAPR, face protection (i.e. goggles or a face shield), gloves and gowns with each room entry.
5. 2019-nCoV is a new emerging pathogen and suspected cases must be reported immediately.