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## **SITREP 01**

### **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK WUHAN, CHINA 2020**

**Issued: 1645 hrs, 21 January 2020**

*IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION*

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*New information in red text*

Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of 1645 hrs 21 January 2020.

#### **International Outbreak Situation**

1. As of 21 January 2020, the Wuhan city has reported a total of 198 cases of pneumonia caused by this new coronavirus infection. Of these, 9 cases are critically ill, and 4 cases have died. The remaining patients are in stable condition or have been discharged.
2. Over 800 close contacts have been tracked, and of these, only ninety medical observations are still underway. Among the close contacts, no related cases were found.
3. To date there are reports of four exported cases of novel coronavirus from Wuhan city, two in Thailand, one in Japan and one in South Korea. One suspected case has been reported from Nepal. A few cases exported from Wuhan were also found in other cities in China (Shenzhen and Beijing).
4. While many initial cases are associated with a Wuhan seafood market, a number of cases visited Wuhan but not the market.
5. The Director-General of the World Health Organization is convening an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV on 22 January 2020. The objectives of this meeting are to:
  - Review the status of pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV in the affected countries.
  - Provide views to the Director-General on whether the event constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.
  - Provide views to the Director-General on the issuance of potential Temporary Recommendations.

A statement giving an account of the consultation and its conclusions, will be posted on the WHO public website.

#### **New Zealand Health Sector Response**

6. On 6 and 10 January 2020, Health officials sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions.
7. Guidance for health practitioners has been drafted and will be revised, as required, and finalised when the conclusions of the WHO meeting on 22 January 2020 are known. The guidance for health practitioners will be published on the Ministry website and a National

Health Advisory will be issued to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.

8. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required.
9. Legal advice is being sought to see whether the schedules to the Health Act 1956 need to be updated to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

10. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
11. There are no direct flights between Wuhan and New Zealand. A New Zealand-based IATA representative advised that there are around 7,250 air travellers from Wuhan to New Zealand per annum (and around 52,700 to Australia).
12. On 6 January 2020, Health officials asked DHB public health staff to ensure copies of the health advice card, in both Chinese (simplified) and Chinese (traditional) are available at international points of entry. This provides general advice on symptoms of concern and advises ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) and mention their travel history. Healthline has been informed and confirmed they will put together a 'health concern' document for Healthline nurses, using the information we provided. They will continue to triage any symptomatic callers, as per usual.
13. We are developing banners for points of entry in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the availability of the health advice cards.
14. We are working with Customs to provide health advice cards at Customs' officers' desks and through Customs' electronic signage. Customs has agreed to our request to convene a Border Working Group meeting so we can update border agencies and discuss any concerns they may have.
15. We will also work with the tourism sector to ensure health advice cards are available at accommodation providers and, if possible with tour operators who specialise in providing services to Chinese visitors.
16. On 6 January 2020, Health officials sent a border advisory to our border stakeholder list (border agencies, airlines, shipping companies, airports, sea ports etc). This advice included the current WHO recommendations on public health measures and surveillance of influenza and severe acute respiratory infections. We advised that WHO does not recommend any specific different measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information available about this event.
17. A further border advisory will be sent tomorrow with an update on the outbreak and advice on personal protective measures border staff may take.

## Public Information

18. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email. We will provide an update on the Ministry's website so we can direct the public and journalists to this information.
19. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.

## Other Country Responses

20. We have informal information suggesting entry screening is currently being conducted in eleven countries, including those bordering China as well as Canada and the US. This includes temperature screening, recording of passenger information and health checks of symptomatic passengers. It is not clear how many of these countries already undertake thermal screening. Travel advisories have been issued by ten countries including Canada, the UK and the US.
21. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health has provided us with its sitrep dated 20 January 2020. This states that the National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak.
22. The Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA) met on Monday 20 January 2020 to discuss the outbreak. Members have requested a coordinated national health response to the 2019-nCoV outbreak. Members recommended that this incident be treated as a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS). Members agreed that 2019-nCoV should be made a Listed Human Disease to ensure appropriate border measures are possible to implement.
23. The Chief Medical Officer convened a meeting of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Monday 20 January to discuss recent developments. The AHPPC endorsed the proposed enhanced border measures. AHPPC agreed with the Department's position of not currently recommending mass screening of passengers at airports. AHPPC supported making 2019-nCoV a Listed Human Disease. AHPPC supported considering the 2019-CoV outbreak to be a CDINS.
24. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, will enhance the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
  - *The travellers with illness checklist is currently being updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers.*
  - *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is currently being drafted for Human Biosecurity Officers to hand out to passengers arriving into Sydney on direct flights from Wuhan.*
  - *Digital banners will be displayed in international airports to alert travellers from Wuhan of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they become ill.*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports due to the limited evidence of effectiveness, particularly in the absence of human-to-human transmission and where clinical symptoms are similar to a number of other common viruses*
25. This is consistent with NZ measures, although NZ has no direct flights from Wuhan. We are already providing health advice cards in English but also in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese at international points of entry. These cards describe symptoms of concern, which include fever and respiratory symptoms. We have banners in English but are developing banners in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese. We are also working

with Customs to consider whether to place travel advice cards at Customs' desks as well and to use electronic signage (where it is available).

### **Next Report**

26. The next report will be a Sitrep at 1600 hrs on Wednesday 22 January 2020.

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health



## SITREP 02

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK WUHAN, CHINA 2020

Issued: **1100 hrs, 22 January 2020**

**IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

*New information in red text*

The Public Health Group has established an Incident Management Team, using the CIMS structure to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 22 January 2020**.

#### International Outbreak Situation

1. As of **22 January 2020**, the Wuhan city has reported a total of 198 cases of pneumonia caused by this new coronavirus infection. Of these, **35 cases are seriously ill**, 9 cases are critically ill, and **5 cases have died**. The remaining patients are in stable condition or have been discharged. **No new cases were reported**.
2. Over 800 close contacts have been tracked, and of these, only ninety medical observations are still underway. Among the close contacts, no related cases were found.
3. **A total of 224 cases have been reported in China, including 217 confirmed cases (198 in Wuhan, 5 in Beijing, and 14 in Guangdong Province); 7 suspected cases (in Sichuan Province) 2 cases, 1 case in Yunnan Province, 2 cases in Shanghai, 1 case in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and 1 case in Shandong Province). There are informal reports of 14 healthcare workers being infected and cases with no travel history to Wuhan.**
4. To date there are reports of four exported cases of novel coronavirus from Wuhan city, two in Thailand, one in Japan and one in South Korea. One suspected case has been reported from Nepal.
5. The Director-General of the World Health Organization is convening an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV on 22 January 2020. The objectives of this meeting are to:
  - Review the status of pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV in the affected countries.
  - Provide views to the Director-General on whether the event constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.
  - Provide views to the Director-General on the issuance of potential Temporary Recommendations.

A statement giving an account of the consultation and its conclusions, will be posted on the WHO public website.

#### Whole of Government Response

6. **The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet advised that, at this stage, a Watch Group meeting is not necessary. Instead, DPMC will advise agencies that the Ministry is convening the Intersectoral Pandemic Group to consider the novel coronavirus outbreak Whuan, on Friday 24 January 2020. Dr Caroline McElnay will chair the meeting. We will provide agencies with an update on the outbreak, discuss preparedness and share key messages.**

7. Customs is convening the Border Working Group at the request of Health officials. This will include border agencies and will discuss key messages, personal protection for border agency staff.

### **New Zealand Health Sector Response**

8. The Communicable Diseases Team is convening an expert advisory group to peer review advice and provide technical expertise to the Ministry. If possible, the first meeting will be held on Friday 24 January 2020 or early next week.
9. On 6 and 10 January 2020, Health officials sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions.
10. Advice for primary care and public health unit staff is being prepared to respond to queries from people who may have recently returned from China and developed respiratory symptoms (ie post-border). This will consider the WHO advice to treat such cases as for other respiratory conditions.
11. A teleconference will be convened with public health unit staff on Friday 24 January 2020. This will provide an update on the WHO recommendations and advice and provide public health staff an opportunity to seek advice and identify areas of concern.
12. Guidance for health practitioners has been drafted and will be revised, as required, and finalised when the conclusions of the WHO meeting on 22 January 2020 are known. The guidance for health practitioners will be published on the Ministry website and a National Health Advisory will be issued to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.
13. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required.
14. A Cabinet Paper is being prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

15. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
16. There are no direct flights between Wuhan and New Zealand. A New Zealand-based IATA representative advised that there are around 7,250 air travellers from Wuhan to New Zealand per annum (and around 52,700 to Australia).
17. On 6 January 2020, Health officials asked DHB public health staff to ensure copies of the health advice card, in both Chinese (simplified) and Chinese (traditional) are available at international points of entry. This provides general advice on symptoms of concern and

advises ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) and mention their travel history. Healthline has been informed and confirmed they will put together a 'health concern' document for Healthline nurses, using the information we provided. They will continue to triage any symptomatic callers, as per usual.

18. We are developing banners for points of entry in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the availability of the health advice cards. **New stocks of health advice cards are being printed.**
19. We are working with Customs to provide health advice cards at Customs' officers' desks and through Customs' electronic signage. Customs has agreed to our request to convene a Border Working Group meeting so we can update border agencies and discuss any concerns they may have.
20. We will also work with the tourism sector to ensure health advice cards are available at accommodation providers and, if possible with tour operators who specialise in providing services to Chinese visitors.
21. On 6 January 2020, Health officials sent a border advisory to our border stakeholder list (border agencies, airlines, shipping companies, airports, sea ports etc). This advice included the current WHO recommendations on public health measures and surveillance of influenza and severe acute respiratory infections. We advised that WHO does not recommend any specific different measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information available about this event.
22. A further border advisory will be sent **today** with an update on the outbreak and advice on personal protective measures border staff may take.

### **Public Information**

23. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email. **A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information.**
24. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.
25. **The Ministry's Communications Team are working with DHB communications advisors to share key messages and identify questions for the operational teams to answer.**

### **Other Country Responses**

26. We have informal information suggesting entry screening is currently being conducted in eleven countries, including those bordering China as well as Canada and the US. This includes temperature screening, recording of passenger information and health checks of symptomatic passengers. It is not clear how many of these countries already undertake thermal screening. Travel advisories have been issued by ten countries including Canada, the UK and the US.
27. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health has provided us with its sitrep dated 20 January 2020. This states that the National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak.
28. The Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA) met on Monday 20 January 2020 to discuss the outbreak. Members have requested a coordinated national health

response to the 2019-nCoV outbreak. Members recommended that this incident be treated as a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS). Members agreed that 2019-nCoV should be made a Listed Human Disease to ensure appropriate border measures are possible to implement.

29. The Chief Medical Officer convened a meeting of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Monday 20 January to discuss recent developments. The AHPPC endorsed the proposed enhanced border measures. AHPPC agreed with the Department's position of not currently recommending mass screening of passengers at airports. AHPPC supported making 2019-nCoV a Listed Human Disease. AHPPC supported considering the 2019-CoV outbreak to be a CDINS.
30. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, will enhance the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *The travellers with illness checklist is currently being updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers.*
  - *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is currently being drafted for Human Biosecurity Officers to hand out to passengers arriving into Sydney on direct flights from Wuhan.*
  - *Digital banners will be displayed in international airports to alert travellers from Wuhan of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they become ill.*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports due to the limited evidence of effectiveness, particularly in the absence of human-to-human transmission and where clinical symptoms are similar to a number of other common viruses*
31. This is consistent with NZ measures, although NZ has no direct flights from Wuhan. We are already providing health advice cards in English but also in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese at international points of entry. These cards describe symptoms of concern, which include fever and respiratory symptoms. We have banners in English but are developing banners in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese. We are also working with Customs to consider whether to place travel advice cards at Customs' desks as well and to use electronic signage (where it is available).
32. Media reports say a Brisbane man, who displayed respiratory symptoms after returning from Wuhan, has been released from quarantine as he no longer showed symptoms. Result of tests for the novel coronavirus are not yet available.

### Next Report

33. The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Thursday 23 January 2020.**

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health





## SITREP 03

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK WUHAN, CHINA 2020

Issued: **1100 hrs, 23 January 2020**

**IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

*New information in red text*

The Public Health Group has established an Incident Management Team, using the CIMS structure to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 23 January 2020**.

#### International Outbreak Situation

1. Information about case numbers and mortality is variable. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports but also informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
2. As of **23 January 2020**, Wuhan city has reported (via ProMed) a total of **258** cases of pneumonia caused by this new coronavirus infection. Of these, **51** cases are seriously ill, **12** cases are critically ill, and **6** cases have died. The remaining patients are in stable condition or have been discharged. **60** new cases were reported. **988** close contacts have been tracked, and of these, 249 medical observations are still underway. Among the close contacts, no related cases were found.
3. According to ProMed, a total of **291** cases have been reported in China, including **270** cases in Hubei Province (which includes Wuhan City), **5** in Beijing, **14** in Guangdong Province, and **2** in Shanghai. Suspected cases have been reported from **14 provinces (regions, municipalities)**. There are informal reports of 14 healthcare workers being infected and cases with no travel history to Wuhan. Chinese officials confirmed limited human-to-human transmission in Guangdong Province. Two of the 14 cases reported by the WHO in Guangdong Province had not travelled to Wuhan but had contact with a known case. China has commenced exit screening, which includes temperature screening and temporary isolation of febrile passengers

s 6(a)

5. To date there are reports of **six** exported cases of novel coronavirus: two in Thailand, one in Japan, one in South Korea, **one in Taiwan** and **one in the United States**. One suspected case has been reported from Nepal.
6. Two suspected cases have been reported in Australia, one each in Queensland and Victoria. The Queensland case has tested negative for the virus.
7. The Director-General of the World Health Organization **convened** an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV on 22 January 2020. The objectives of this meeting were to review the status of pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus and provide views to the Director-General of WHO on whether the event constitutes a public health emergency of international concern and on issuing

potential Temporary Recommendations. In a media conference following the meeting, the Director-General advised there was insufficient information for recommendations to be made and that a statement will be released on 24 January 2020.

## Whole of Government Response

8. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet advised that, at this stage, a Watch Group meeting is not necessary. Instead, the Intersectoral Pandemic Group will meet on Friday 24 January 2020 to consider the novel coronavirus outbreak at Wuhan. Dr Caroline McElroy will chair the meeting. We will provide agencies with an update on the outbreak, discuss preparedness and share key messages.
9. Customs is convening the Border Working Group on Friday 22 January 2020 at the request of Health officials. Border agencies will be provided with an update on the outbreak and will discuss key messages, and personal protection for border agency staff.

## New Zealand Health Sector Response

10. The Communicable Diseases Team is convening an expert advisory group on Friday 24 January 2020 to peer review advice and provide technical expertise to the Ministry.
11. On 6 and 10 January 2020, Health officials sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions.
12. This morning, we sent a National Health Advisory to DHBs with a quick update ahead of the WHO meeting on 22 January. Following the WHO meeting, we will provide DHBs with a more detailed National Health Advisory on Friday, 23 January 2020
13. We are preparing advice for primary care and public health unit staff, to respond to queries from people who may have recently returned from China and developed respiratory symptoms (ie post-border). This will consider the WHO advice to treat such cases as for other respiratory conditions. Homecare Medical have provided us with the script they are using for callers to Healthline and we will work with them to update it to take account of recommendations from WHO and the Ministry's advice as required.
14. We will teleconference with public health unit staff on Friday 24 January 2020. This will provide an update on the WHO recommendations and Ministry advice.
15. Our draft guidance for health practitioners will be revised, as required, and finalised when the conclusions of the WHO meeting on 22 January 2020 are known. The guidance for health practitioners will be published on the Ministry website and a National Health Advisory will be issued to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.
16. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required.
17. A Cabinet Paper is being prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process.

## New Zealand Border Response

18. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not **currently** recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
19. There are no direct flights between Wuhan and New Zealand. A New Zealand-based IATA representative advised that there are around 7,250 air travellers from Wuhan to New Zealand per annum (and around 52,700 to Australia). **Customs advised that their records showed 7,792 passengers arrived in New Zealand in 2019, who started their journey in Wuhan. In the last seven days (15 to 22 January 2020), 279 passengers arrived in New Zealand from Wuhan, with 216 passengers arriving through Auckland and 63 passengers arriving through Christchurch.**
20. On 6 January 2020, Health officials asked DHB public health staff to ensure copies of the health advice card, in both Chinese (simplified) and Chinese (traditional) are available at international points of entry. This provides general advice on symptoms of concern and advises ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) and mention their travel history. Healthline has been informed and confirmed they will put together a 'health concern' document for Healthline nurses, using the information we provided. They will continue to triage any symptomatic callers, as per usual.
21. We are developing banners for points of entry in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the availability of the health advice cards. New stocks of health advice cards are being printed. Customs **has agreed** to provide health advice cards at Customs' officers' desks and through Customs' electronic signage.
22. **On 22 January, Health officials sent a further email to public health managers asking for additional signage to be displayed at international points of entry. We asked that they arrange for the banners to be displayed (when received) and for public health staff to support their local Customs airport and sea port staff by ensuring supplies of health advice cards are available and checking location of signage. We also suggested public health staff may wish to use this opportunity to arrange meetings with their border stakeholders to provide information about infection prevention and control (and to remind border staff of the importance of ensuring vaccinations are up to date).**
23. **We have contacted ISS McKay, who manage 98 percent of cruise vessel arrivals into New Zealand, and provided them with the general health advice poster and the travel advice cards (English and Chinese versions). They have agreed to share these with incoming vessels so they can display this for passengers, and to share with agents across the country so they can ensure messaging is displayed in terminals.**
24. **Tourism Industry Aotearoa will work with accommodation providers and tour operators who specialise in providing services to Chinese visitors, to ensure health advice cards are available.**
25. On 6 January 2020 **and 22 January 2020**, Health officials sent a border advisory to our border stakeholder list (border agencies, airlines, shipping companies, airports, sea ports etc). This advice included **an update on the outbreak and advice on dealing with ill travellers including personal protective measures border staff may take. We reiterated that WHO does not recommend any specific different measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information available about this event. We noted WHO has convened an expert**

meeting tonight and that our advice will be updated following any revised recommendations from the WHO.

26. Health officials have received copies of the Australian fact sheets and are reviewing these to develop fact sheets for New Zealand to be placed on the Ministry's website and be available for use at the border if required.
27. Health officials will start to draft guidance for public health responses at the border, pending recommendations from the WHO meeting and making novel coronavirus diseases notifiable under the Health Act 1956.

## Public Information

28. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email.
29. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. **Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.**
30. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.
31. The Ministry's Communications Team are working with DHB communications advisors to share key messages and identify questions for the operational teams to answer.

## Other Country Responses

32. We have informal information suggesting entry screening is currently being conducted in eleven countries, including those bordering China as well as Canada and the US. This includes temperature screening, recording of passenger information and health checks of symptomatic passengers. It is not clear how many of these countries already undertake thermal screening. Travel advisories have been issued by ten countries including Canada, the UK and the US.
33. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health has provided us with its sitrep dated 22 January 2020. This states that the National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. **In response to significant media interest, the CMO held a press conference on 21 January and issued a media statement to provide an update on the evolving situation. The Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade updated their Smartraveller travel advisory for Wuhan to level 2 – exercise a high degree of caution.**
34. The NIR is working in consultation with Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA) to develop a communications plan and to produce information for General Practitioners *and Emergency Departments*. CDNA established a working group to develop an interim surveillance case definition and to review and update existing coronavirus related guidelines for the public health management of cases.
35. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. A draft 2019-nCoV public health guidance (SoNG) laboratory section *has been endorsed by the Public Health Laboratory Network. The guidance has been provided to the CDNA working group for incorporation into the SoNG.* Other testing, such as whole genome sequencing (WGS) identification is currently under discussion

36. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *The travellers with illness checklist is currently being updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers.*
  - *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV has been developed for Biosecurity Officers to hand out to passengers arriving into Sydney on direct flights from Wuhan. NSW Health staff will also be on hand to meet these direct flights [Note: NZ has no direct flights from Wuhan.]*
  - *Digital banners have been developed for display in international airports to alert travellers from Wuhan of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they become ill.*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness*
37. This is consistent with NZ measures. We are already providing health advice cards in English and in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese at international points of entry. These cards describe symptoms of concern, which include fever and respiratory symptoms. We have banners in English and are developing banners in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese. We are also working with Customs to consider whether to place travel advice cards at Customs' desks as well and to use electronic signage (where it is available).

#### **Next Report**

38. The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Friday 24 January 2020.**

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health





## SITREP 04

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1100 hrs, 24 January 2020**

**IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

*New information in red text*

The Public Health Group has established an Incident Management Team, using the CIMS structure to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 24 January 2020**.

#### International Outbreak Situation

1. Information about case numbers and mortality is variable. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <sup>s 6(a)</sup> and from the Australian Department of Health. We are also monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.

s 6(a)

3. Chinese authorities have announced that from the morning the 23 January, Wuhan (a city of 11 million) is effectively quarantined, with airports and train stations closed. Concern spiked as news of the Wuhan measures became known, with almost all people in Beijing now wearing face-masks when out and about. Media coverage of the virus, including state media, has seen an uptick in the last 36 hours.
4. In its sitrep dated 23 January 2020, the Australian Department of Health reported approximately 580 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV have been detected, and 17 deaths have been reported. Of the confirmed cases:
  - 571 cases have been reported in China in 25 provinces, with the majority of cases from Hubei province
  - 9 exported cases have been reported in Thailand (n=3), Japan (n=1), South Korea (n=1), the USA (n=1), Hong Kong (n=1), Taiwan (n=1), and Macau (n=1) all with reported travel to Wuhan.
  - There have been 17 deaths, all of which have been reported from Wuhan. Ages ranged from 48 to 89 years and 10 are reported to have had underlying medical conditions.
  - Of the 571 confirmed cases in China, 95 have been reported as severe (not including the 17 reported deaths).
  - A total of 5,897 close contacts have been identified in China, 969 have been released from medical observation, and 4,928 are still under medical observation.
5. The recent significant increase in the number of cases has been partially due to increased surveillance and testing of cases.

6. The Australian Department of Health advised that no international travellers suspected of having coronavirus have been identified at Australian borders, including the flight arriving direct from Wuhan this morning. There is a small number of persons under investigation by state and territory health departments.

### World Health Organization Advice

7. The Director-General of the World Health Organization convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV on 22 January 2020. The objectives of this meeting were to review the status of pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus and provide views to the Director-General of WHO on whether the event constitutes a public health emergency of international concern and on issuing potential Temporary Recommendations.
8. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee will reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further.
9. WHO's advice to countries like New Zealand is that further international exportation of cases may appear in any country. All countries should be prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of 2019-nCoV infection, and to share full data with WHO.
10. Countries should place particular emphasis on reducing human infection, prevention of secondary transmission and international spread, and contributing to the international response through multi-sectoral communication and collaboration and active participation in increasing knowledge on the virus and the disease, as well as advancing research.
11. Countries should also follow travel advice from WHO. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information.
12. The Ministry of Health is already undertaking actions that meet the WHO's recommendations. New Zealand's current level of activity is appropriate and will continue.

### Whole of Government Response

13. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is holding a Watch Group on 27 Jan for agencies with policy and operational responsibilities (those requested to attend have been invited directly). The Intersectoral Pandemic Group is meeting at 11.30am this morning to consider the novel coronavirus outbreak at Wuhan. Dr Caroline McElroy will chair the meeting. We will provide agencies with an update on the outbreak, discuss preparedness and share key messages.
14. Customs is convening the Border Working Group at 1.30 pm today. Border agencies will be provided with an update on the outbreak and will discuss key messages, and personal protection for border agency staff.

### New Zealand Health Sector Response

15. Health officials convened an expert advisory group this morning to peer review advice and provide technical expertise to the Ministry.

16. On 6, 10 and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions.
17. We will provide DHBs with a more detailed National Health Advisory today that will include an update on the WHO statement, and advice for health practitioners. The guidance for health practitioners will be published on the Ministry website and a National Health Advisory will be issued to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.
18. We have prepared advice for primary care and public health unit staff, to respond to queries from people who may have recently returned from China and developed respiratory symptoms (ie post-border). This will consider the WHO advice to treat such cases as for other respiratory conditions. Homecare Medical have provided us with the script they are using for callers to Healthline and we will work with them to update it to take account of recommendations from WHO and the Ministry's advice as required.
19. We will teleconference with public health unit staff this afternoon. This will provide an update on the WHO recommendations and Ministry advice.
20. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required.
21. A Cabinet Paper has been prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

22. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
23. There are no direct flights between Wuhan and New Zealand. There are around 7,700 air travellers from Wuhan to New Zealand per annum (and around 52,700 to Australia). In the last seven days (15 to 22 January 2020), 279 passengers arrived in New Zealand from Wuhan, with 216 passengers arriving through Auckland and 63 passengers arriving through Christchurch.
24. On 6 January 2020, Health officials asked DHB public health staff to ensure copies of the health advice card, in both Chinese (simplified) and Chinese (traditional) are available at international points of entry. This provides general advice on symptoms of concern and advises ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) and mention their travel history. Healthline will continue to triage any symptomatic callers.
25. We are developing banners for points of entry in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the availability of the health advice cards. New stocks of health advice cards are being printed. Customs has agreed to provide health advice cards at Customs' officers' desks and through Customs' electronic signage.



26. On 22 January, Health officials asked public health managers to ensure additional signage is displayed at international points of entry. We asked that they arrange for the banners to be displayed (when received) and for public health staff to support their local Customs airport and sea port staff by ensuring supplies of health advice cards are available and checking location of signage. We also suggested public health staff may wish to use this opportunity to arrange meetings with their border stakeholders to provide information about infection prevention and control (and to remind border staff of the importance of ensuring vaccinations are up to date).
27. Auckland Regional Public Health Service and Community and Public Health are actively planning to establish a public health presence at Auckland and Christchurch International Airports respectively, if required.
28. ISS McKay, who manage 98 percent of cruise vessel arrivals into New Zealand, agreed to share the general health advice poster and the travel advice cards (English and Chinese versions) with incoming vessels to display for passengers, and their agents across the country will ensure messaging is displayed in terminals.
29. Tourism Industry Aotearoa will work with accommodation providers and tour operators who specialise in providing services to Chinese visitors, to ensure health advice cards (English and Chinese versions) are available.
30. On 6 January 2020 and 22 January 2020, we sent a border advisory to our border stakeholder list (border agencies, airlines, shipping companies, airports, sea ports etc). This advice included updates on the outbreak and advice on dealing with ill travellers including personal protective measures border staff may take. We reiterated that WHO does not recommend any specific different measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information available about this event. We noted WHO has convened an expert meeting tonight and that our advice will be updated following any revised recommendations from the WHO.
31. Health officials have adapted the Australian fact sheets and published it on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>. It is also available for use at the border if required. We are arranging for it to be translated into simplified and traditional Chinese.
32. Health officials are drafting guidance for public health responses at the border, which will include the current recommendations from the WHO meeting and making novel coronavirus diseases notifiable under the Health Act 1956.

## Public Information

33. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email.
34. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.
35. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.
36. The Ministry's Communications Team are working with DHB communications advisors to share key messages and identify questions for the operational teams to answer.

## Other Country Responses

37. We have informal information suggesting entry screening is currently being conducted in eleven countries, including those bordering China as well as Canada and the US. This includes temperature screening, recording of passenger information and health checks of symptomatic passengers. It is not clear how many of these countries already undertake thermal screening. Travel advisories have been issued by ten countries including Canada, the UK and the US.
38. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health has provided us with its sitrep dated 22 January 2020. This states that the National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. In response to significant media interest, the CMO held a press conference on 21 January and issued a media statement to provide an update on the evolving situation. *On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in consultation with the NIR, raised the level of travel advice for Wuhan to 'level 3 – reconsider your need to travel' and issued a Smartraveller bulletin on the outbreak. The advice level for China as a whole has not changed.*
39. *The Chief Medical Officer convened an emergency teleconference of Australian Health Protection Principle Committee to discuss school exclusions for children returning from China. Members agreed that only contacts of cases diagnosed/confirmed in Wuhan should be considered for potential exclusion. It was also noted that to date, there has not been any reports.*
40. The NIR is working in consultation with Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA) to develop a communications plan and to produce information for General Practitioners and Emergency Departments. CDNA established a working group to develop an interim surveillance case definition and to review and update existing coronavirus related guidelines for the public health management of cases.
41. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. *2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.*
42. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *The travellers with illness checklist has been updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers.*
  - *Flight MU749 from Wuhan landed at Sydney Airport this morning. On arrival, all passengers on this flight were met by biosecurity and health officials and received information about the virus and seeking medical advice if they are or become unwell. [Note: NZ has no direct flights from Wuhan.]*
  - *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV has been developed for Biosecurity Officers to hand out to passengers arriving into Sydney on direct flights from Wuhan once they recommence.*
  - *Digital banners have been developed for display in international airports to alert travellers from Wuhan of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they become ill.*
  - *Pull-up banners are also being distributed to major international airports for display in the coming days*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness*
43. This is consistent with NZ measures. We are already providing health advice cards in English and in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese at international points of entry.

These cards describe symptoms of concern, which include fever and respiratory symptoms. We have banners in English and are developing banners in tradition Chinese and simplified Chinese. Customs has agreed to place travel advice cards at Customs' desks as well and to use electronic signage (where it is available).

#### **Next Report**

44. The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Monday 27 January 2020**.

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health

CONFIDENTIAL



## SITREP 05

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1100 hrs, 25 January 2020**

**IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

New information in red text

The Public Health Group has established an Incident Management Team, using the CIMS structure to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 25 January 2020**.

#### International Outbreak Situation

1. Information about case numbers and mortality is variable. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <sup>s 6(a)</sup> and from the Australian Department of Health. We are also monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
2. Approximately **844** confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported:
  - **830** cases have been reported in China, with most cases from Hubei province;
  - **25** deaths have been reported. **24 of the deaths were from Hubei Province, and one was from Hebei Province.** Reports suggest that **most of** those who have died from the virus to date were suffering from pre-existent underlying health problems.
  - Of the **830** confirmed cases in China, **177** have been reported as severe (not including the **25** reported deaths);
  - A total of **9,507** close contacts have been identified in China, **1,087** have been released from medical observation, and **8,420** are still under medical observation.
  - **15** cases have been reported in Thailand (3), Japan (2), South Korea (1), the USA (1), Hong Kong (2), Taiwan (1), Macau (2), Vietnam (2) and Singapore (1), all with reported travel to Wuhan;
3. The WHO reported that the proportion of deaths in currently reported cases is 4 percent and that 25 percent of cases are reported to be severe.
4. At this time, there is no clear evidence of sustained transmission. The WHO reports that the extent of human-to-human transmission remains unclear. However, current evidence of limited human-to-human transmission reported by the WHO includes:
  - Fourth-generation cases in Wuhan and second-generation cases outside Wuhan
  - Amplification has occurred in one healthcare facility, but there have been very few reports of hospital outbreaks or infections of health care workers
  - On 23 January, the WHO reported that in the last week, less than 15% of new cases reported having visiting Huanan market, and family clusters involving persons with no reported travel to Wuhan have been reported from Guangdong Province
5. The Australian Department of Health advised that no international travellers suspected of having coronavirus have been identified at Australian borders. There is a small number of persons under investigation by state and territory health departments.

## World Health Organization (WHO) Advice

6. The Director-General of the WHO convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee will reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further.
7. WHO's advice to countries like New Zealand is that further international exportation of cases may appear in any country. All countries should be prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of 2019-nCoV infection, and to share full data with WHO.
8. Countries should place particular emphasis on reducing human infection, prevention of secondary transmission and international spread, and contributing to the international response through multi-sectoral communication and collaboration and active participation in increasing knowledge on the virus and the disease, as well as advancing research.
9. Countries should also follow travel advice from WHO. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information.
10. The Ministry of Health is already undertaking actions that meet the WHO's recommendations. New Zealand's current level of activity is appropriate and will continue.

## Whole of Government Response

11. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is holding a Watch Group on 27 Jan for agencies with policy and operational responsibilities (those requested to attend have been invited directly). The Intersectoral Pandemic Group met on 24 January 2020 to consider the novel coronavirus outbreak at Wuhan. We provided agencies with an update on the outbreak, discuss preparedness and share key messages.
12. Customs convened a meeting of the Border Working Group on 24 January 2020. Border agencies were provided with an update on the outbreak and endorsed the New Zealand Customs Service's advice to staff who deal with international travellers and conveyances.

## New Zealand Health Sector Response

13. Health officials convened an expert advisory group on 24 January 2020 to peer review advice for health practitioners and the primary care sector, and to provide technical expertise to the Ministry.
14. On 6, 10, and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions.
15. On 24 January 2020, interim guidance for all health practitioners was published on the Ministry website. We also published interim guidance for primary care. We issued a

National Health Advisory to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.

16. Homecare Medical have provided us with the script they are using for callers to Healthline and we will work with them to update it to take account of recommendations from WHO and the Ministry's advice as required.
17. We **teleconferenced** with public health unit staff **on 24 January 2020** to provide an update on the WHO recommendations and Ministry advice.
18. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required.
19. A Cabinet Paper has been prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

20. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
21. There are no direct flights between Wuhan and New Zealand. There are around 7,700 air travellers from Wuhan to New Zealand per annum (and around 52,700 to Australia). **There are around 450,000 travellers from China to New Zealand each year, and around 400,000 of those arrive on direct flights. We expect around 50,000 travellers from China during the Chinese New Year.**
22. Health officials asked DHB public health staff to ensure copies of the health advice card, in both Chinese (simplified) and Chinese (traditional) are available at international points of entry. This provides general advice on symptoms of concern and advises ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) and mention their travel history.
23. We also asked that they support their local Customs airport and sea port staff by ensuring supplies of health advice cards are available and checking location of signage. We suggested public health staff may wish to use this opportunity to arrange meetings with their border stakeholders to provide information about infection prevention and control (and to remind border staff of the importance of ensuring vaccinations are up to date).
24. Customs has agreed to provide health advice cards at Customs' officers' desks and through Customs' electronic signage.
25. We are developing banners for points of entry in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the availability of the health advice cards. New stocks of health advice cards are being printed.
26. Auckland Regional Public Health Service and Community and Public Health are actively planning to establish a public health presence at Auckland and Christchurch International Airports respectively, if required.
27. ISS McKay, who manage 98 percent of cruise vessel arrivals into New Zealand, agreed to share the general health advice poster and the travel advice cards (English and



Chinese versions) with incoming vessels to display for passengers, and their agents across the country will ensure messaging is displayed in terminals.

28. Tourism Industry Aotearoa will work with accommodation providers and tour operators who specialise in providing services to Chinese visitors, to ensure health advice cards (English and Chinese versions) are available.
29. On 6 January 2020 and 22 January 2020, we sent a border advisory to our border stakeholder list (border agencies, airlines, shipping companies, airports, sea ports etc). **On 24 January we issued a third border advisory that gave a further update on the outbreak, and provided the WHO advice that the event did not currently constitute a public health emergency of international concern (but this would be reviewed in ten days). We summarised the current New Zealand border measures, repeated advice for border stakeholders for dealing with ill travellers, and included the New Zealand Customs Service's advice to staff who deal with international travellers and conveyances.**
30. Health officials have adapted the Australian fact sheets and published it on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>. It is also available for use at the border if required. We are arranging for it to be translated into simplified and traditional Chinese.
31. Health officials are drafting guidance for public health responses at the border, which will include the current recommendations from the WHO meeting **and the interim guidance for health professionals.**

## Public Information

32. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email.
33. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.
34. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.
35. The Ministry's Communications Team are working with DHB communications advisors to share key messages and identify questions for the operational teams to answer.

## Other Country Responses

36. We have informal information suggesting entry screening is currently being conducted in eleven countries, including those bordering China as well as Canada and the US. Travel advisories have been issued by ten countries including Canada, the UK and the US.
37. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health has provided us with its sitrep dated **24** January 2020. This states that the National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in consultation with the NIR, raised the level of travel advice for Wuhan *to 'level 3 – reconsider your need to travel'* and issued a Smartraveller bulletin on the outbreak. The advice level for China as a whole has not changed.

38. The Chief Medical Officer convened the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee to discuss school exclusions for children returning from China. Members agreed that only contacts of cases diagnosed/confirmed in Wuhan should be considered for potential exclusion. **The Chief Medical Officer convened a further meeting of the Committee on 24 January 2020 to discuss the evolving situation, including the latest epidemiological data, Australia's laboratory capacity, clinical guidelines, infection control guidelines and personal protective equipment (PPE).**
39. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. 2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.
40. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *The travellers with illness checklist has been updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers.*
  - *Flight MU749 from Wuhan landed at Sydney Airport this morning. On arrival, all passengers on this flight were met by biosecurity and health officials and received information about the virus and seeking medical advice if they are or become unwell. [Note: NZ has no direct flights from Wuhan.]*
  - *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV has been developed for Biosecurity Officers to hand out to passengers arriving into Sydney on direct flights from Wuhan once they recommence.*
  - *Digital banners have been developed for display in international airports to alert travellers from Wuhan of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they become ill.*
  - *Pull-up banners are also being distributed to major international airports for display in the coming days*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness*
41. This is consistent with NZ measures. We are already providing health advice cards in English and in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese at international points of entry. These cards describe symptoms of concern, which include fever and respiratory symptoms. We have banners in English and are developing banners in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese. Customs has agreed to place travel advice cards at Customs' desks as well and to use electronic signage (where it is available).
42. **China:** Wuhan (a city of 11 million) is effectively quarantined, with all outbound flights, trains, buses and ferries suspended. Citizens have been requested to not leave Wuhan and to wear masks in public places. As of 24 January 2020, travel restrictions have expanded to neighbouring cities.
43. **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs):** on 23 January 2020, MFAT officials met with partners of the Pacific health security group to discuss the situation with novel coronavirus in the Pacific and provided us with the main points that came out of the meeting.
- "... PICTs (including Fiji, Tonga RMI) are starting to ask WHO Suva about measures they should be putting in place.. WHO is sending updates and providing information such as case definitions, reporting forms and data dictionaries. WHO is also encouraging: countries to review SARs and H1N1 plans; public and private health practitioners to be aware of case definitions; ports and airports to have updated guidance material on symptoms and signs; early warning and triage systems on infection prevention and control to be put in place.*



*“Fiji called a meeting of the communicable disease task force (that WHO and SPC are part of) and is looking at what revisions might need to be made to its pandemic plan to reflect this new event. Fiji MoH is working proactively with the Fiji Ministry of Immigration to see if guidance materials need to be revised.*

*“While the Pacific has managed to contain the recent measles outbreak relatively well they will not have the capacity to manage a new pandemic such as this that will require for example, contact tracing and other containment measures.*

*“Should NCoV impact the Pacific, PICs are likely to need additional PPE (personal protective equipment) and support for the preparation and testing of samples. They may also need influenza vaccine for health workers who may be impacted by NCoV and possibly extra antibiotics (for secondary infections). Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu were assessed by WHO to be ineffective in treating a virus such as this....*

*“WHO emergency response capacity has been bolstered by the measles situation and WHO will transition systems to respond to NCoV. WHO is looking to put together a regional action plan for NCoV and will share this with PAHSEC partners (MFAT, DFAT, World bank, SPC, CDC) for comment and potential funding by Friday 31 January. SPC confirmed that testing in Australia at Vidri (the Victorian Infectious Disease Reference Lab) for clinical confirmation of an outbreak in countries will be free....”*

44. **Samoa:** as of 23 January 2020, Samoan authorities have implemented travel restrictions in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China. MFAT's Safe Travel website advises that all travellers to Samoa are required to undergo medical clearance at least three days before travelling to Samoa to confirm that they are free of any infectious diseases. All travellers from 2019 novel coronavirus affected countries must spend at least 14 days in a country free of 2019 novel coronavirus and undergo medical clearance prior to travel to Samoa. If in the event a traveller arrives within the 14 day period, health quarantine measures will be applied and deportation to the country of travel origin will be considered.

#### **Next Report**

45. The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100** hrs on Monday 27 January 2020.

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health



## SITREP 06

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1830 hrs, 26 January 2020**

**IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

#### New information in red text

The Public Health Group has established an Incident Management Team, using the CIMS structure to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1830 hours 26 January 2020**.

#### International Outbreak Situation

1. Information about case numbers and mortality is variable. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade **s 6(a)** and from the Australian Department of Health. We are also monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
2. Approximately **1,320** confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported:
  - **1,287** cases have been reported in China in **twenty-nine** provinces, with most cases from Hubei province;
  - **41** deaths have been reported. **39** of the deaths were from Hubei Province, one from Hebei Province **and another in Heilongjiang province**. Reports suggest that most of those who have died from the virus to date were suffering from pre-existent underlying health problems.
  - Of the **1,287** confirmed cases in China, **237** have been reported as severe (not including the **41** reported deaths); **38** patients have been reported as recovered and discharged;
  - A total of **15,197** close contacts have been identified in China, **1,230** have been released from medical observation, and **13,967** are still under medical observation.
  - **33** cases have been reported in **Australia (4), France (3), Hong Kong (5), Japan (2), Macau (2), Nepal (1), Singapore (3), South Korea (2), Taiwan (3), Thailand (4), USA (2), and Vietnam (2) the majority of whom** reported travel to Wuhan.
3. The WHO reported that the proportion of deaths in currently reported cases is 4 percent and that 25 percent of cases are reported to be severe.
4. At this time, there is no clear evidence of sustained transmission. However, current evidence of limited human-to-human transmission reported by the WHO includes:
  - Fourth-generation cases in Wuhan and second-generation cases outside Wuhan
  - Amplification has occurred in one healthcare facility, but there have been very few reports of hospital outbreaks or infections of health care workers
  - On 23 January, the WHO reported that in the last week, less than 15% of new cases reported having visiting Huanan market, and family clusters involving persons with no reported travel to Wuhan have been reported from Guangdong Province
  - **One confirmed case in Vietnam had no travel history to China, but was a family member of a confirmed case who visited Wuhan. This appears to be the first instance of human to human transmission outside China.**
5. **The Australian Department of Health advised that there has been one confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in Victoria, and three confirmed cases in NSW. There are a small number of**

persons under investigation by state and territory health departments in NSW, QLD and WA.

### **World Health Organization (WHO) Advice**

6. The Director-General of the WHO convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee would reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further.
7. WHO's risk assessment of the situation has not changed and remains: very high in China; high at the regional level; moderate at the global level.
8. WHO's advice to countries like New Zealand is that further international exportation of cases may appear in any country. The WHO has encouraged countries to be prepared for containment, including conducting active surveillance, measures for early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread, and to share information with WHO.
9. Countries should also follow travel advice from WHO. The WHO does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information.
10. The Ministry of Health is already undertaking actions that meet the WHO's recommendations. New Zealand's current activity is appropriate and will continue.

### **Risk Assessment – Key Messages**

11. Recognising that this is a rapidly evolving situation, based on the information currently available, the Ministry's assessment is that the risk of a sustained outbreak of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is low. This assessment recognises that there is a risk of 2019-nCoV infection being imported into New Zealand, especially given that the reported numbers are rapidly increasing overseas, New Zealand has close transport links to China, and Chinese New Year celebrations are underway.
12. The risk assessment for New Zealand will be reviewed tomorrow, 27 January 2020, in light of new information being received.
13. The objectives of the current response are:
  - to identify and investigate cases/clusters of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and to apply appropriate infection control measures to prevent its spread
  - to detect cases/clusters of 2019-nCoV infection and prevent transmission in high risk settings (i.e., hospitals)
  - to apply infection prevention and control practices, including basic respiratory hygiene, to minimise the transmission risk of respiratory infections, including infections by 2019-nCoV
  - to prevent sustained outbreaks of 2019-nCoV in the New Zealand community.

### **Whole of Government Response**

14. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is holding a Watch Group on 27 Jan for agencies with policy and operational responsibilities (those requested to attend have been invited directly).
15. Customs convened a meeting of the Border Working Group on 24 January 2020. Border agencies were provided with an update on the outbreak and endorsed the New Zealand

Customs Service's advice to staff who deal with international travellers and conveyances.

### **New Zealand Health Sector Response**

16. Health officials convened an expert advisory group (TAG) on 24 January 2020 to peer review advice for health practitioners and the primary care sector, and to provide technical expertise to the Ministry. **The TAG will meet again on Wednesday 29 January.**
17. On 6, 10, and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions.
18. On 24 January 2020, interim guidance for all health practitioners was published on the Ministry website. We also published interim guidance for primary care. We issued a National Health Advisory to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.
19. Homecare Medical have provided us with the script they are using for callers to Healthline and we will work with them to update it to take account of recommendations from WHO and the Ministry's advice as required. **Homecare Medical had confirmed it has some staff who can speak a number of languages but also uses the on-call interpreting services for any callers who may not speak English as a first language.**
20. We teleconferenced with public health unit staff on 24 January 2020 to provide an update on the WHO recommendations and Ministry advice.
21. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required. **The Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR) advised that it has ordered reagents which are expected to arrive on Tuesday. It will take some time to test the methodology but if this goes well then ESR will be able to offer testing in New Zealand from Sunday (and possibly earlier).**
22. A Cabinet Paper has been prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process.
23. **The Medical Officer of Health for Toi Te Ora Public Health advised that a tour group of nineteen Chinese nationals, currently in Rotorua, were informed that they were on the same flight to Australia as the confirmed case in Melbourne. The case was not symptomatic on the flight. The visitors have all reported they feel well. The Medical Officer of Health has arranged for St John paramedics to undertake an assessment of them. The visitors have been advised of symptoms of concern and public health staff will contact them each day to check their state of health.**

### **New Zealand Border Response**

24. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.

25. There are around 450,000 travellers from China to New Zealand each year, and around 400,000 of those arrive on direct flights. We expect around 50,000 travellers from China during the Chinese New Year.
26. At the border, we are currently:
- keeping border stakeholders informed including border agency, airport and airline staff through border advisories
  - supporting border stakeholders to remind their staff of appropriate measures to protect from respiratory diseases (including from travellers from the northern hemisphere with flu as it is their flu season)
  - providing advice to travellers arriving at New Zealand points of entry so they can recognise symptoms of concern and know to call Healthline to get advice on appropriate personal protection and obtaining treatment
    - health advice cards in English and Chinese (simplified and traditional)
    - electronic signage (where available) at Customs areas
    - health advice cards at Customs officers' desks
    - public health staff **present at Auckland and Christchurch International Airports to provide information to traveller on flights from mainland China: these staff are not undertaking screening or clinical assessments of all arrivals at this point. A public health nurse will be available to take the temperature of any passengers who report they are not well. If the passenger's temperature is over 38 C, this will trigger the usual ill traveller response protocol.**
    - **Auckland public health staff are undertaking a walkthrough at Auckland Airport this afternoon and a further teleconference is planned for 1730 today to confirm arrangements for tomorrow.**
    - maintaining advice on our website, including a fact sheet for travellers, at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
  - responding to reports of ill travellers
  - undertaking contact tracing for casual and close contacts of confirmed cases on flights to New Zealand
  - undertaking contact tracing of close contacts in New Zealand of confirmed cases overseas
  - through ISS McKay, providing the health advice poster and the travel advice cards (English and Chinese versions) to incoming cruise vessels to display for passengers, and ensuring messaging is displayed in terminals
  - through Tourism Industry Aotearoa, providing advice to traveller within New Zealand through accommodation providers and tour operators
  - monitoring border measures undertaken by other countries, particularly Australia, and any recommendations from WHO
  - **finalising** guidance for responding to ill travellers.

## Public Information

27. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email.
28. **Updated key messages will be provided by 11am to include any overnight developments.**
29. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.



30. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.
31. The Ministry's Communications Team are working with DHB communications advisors to share key messages and identify questions for the operational teams to answer.

### Other Country Responses

32. We have informal information suggesting entry screening is currently being conducted in eleven countries, including those bordering China as well as Canada and the US. Travel advisories have been issued by ten countries including Canada, the UK and the US.
33. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health is providing us with its sitreps. The National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in consultation with the NIR, raised the level of travel advice for Wuhan to 'level 3 – reconsider your need to travel' and issued a Smartraveller bulletin on the outbreak.
34. The Department of Health web page for the 2019-nCoV outbreak, including information on the current situation, clinical symptoms, advice to travellers and personal protective measures is live and continues to be updated.
35. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. 2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.
36. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is being provided on arrival, to all passengers on flights from mainland China to Australia. The fact sheet instructs passengers what to do if they feel unwell and what to do if they become unwell post travel. The fact sheet is in both English and Chinese (Mandarin).*
  - *Digital banners have been developed for display in international airports to alert travellers from Wuhan of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they become ill.*
  - *Pull-up banners have been distributed to major international airports for display in the coming days*
  - *Specific fact sheets have been provided to borders workers, airlines and the cruise industry*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness*
37. This is consistent with NZ measures. As noted above, we are providing health advice cards in English and in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese at international points of entry. We have banners in English and are developing banners in traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese. Customs has agreed to place travel advice cards at Customs' desks as well and to use electronic signage (where it is available). Shipping agents are providing health advice cards to cruise vessel operators, and the tourism industry is providing them to accommodation providers and tour operators. Border staff have been provided with advice on personal protection. The border advisories are sent to over 200 border stakeholders.
38. **China:** Wuhan (a city of 11 million) is effectively quarantined, with all outbound flights, trains, buses and ferries suspended. Citizens have been requested to not leave Wuhan

and to wear masks in public places. As of 24 January 2020, travel restrictions have expanded to neighbouring cities.

39. **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs):** on 23 January 202, MFAT officials met with partners of the Pacific health security group to discuss the situation with novel coronavirus in the Pacific. Should 2019-nCoV impact the Pacific, PICs are likely to need additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and support for the preparation and testing of samples. They may also need influenza vaccine for health workers who may be impacted by 2019-nCoV and possibly extra antibiotics (for secondary infections). Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu were assessed by WHO to be ineffective in treating the virus.
40. **Samoa:** as of 23 January 2020, Samoan authorities have implemented travel restrictions in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China. MFAT's Safe Travel website advises that all travelers to Samoa are required to undergo medical clearance at least three days before travelling to Samoa to confirm that they are free of any infectious diseases. All travelers from 2019 novel coronavirus affected countries must spend at least 14 days in a country free of 2019 novel coronavirus and undergo medical clearance prior to travel to Samoa. If in the event a traveler arrives within the 14 day period, health quarantine measures will be applied and deportation to the country of travel origin will be considered.

#### **Next Report**

41. The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Monday 27 January 2020 along with updated key messages.**

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health



## SITREP 07

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1030 hrs, 27 January 2020**

**IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

#### New information in red text

The Public Health Group has established an Incident Management Team, using the CIMS structure to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1030 hours 27 January 2020**.

#### International Outbreak Situation

1. Information about case numbers and mortality is variable. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade **s 6(a)** and from the Australian Department of Health. We are also monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
2. The Australian Department of Health provided the following map of countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, 25 January 2020.

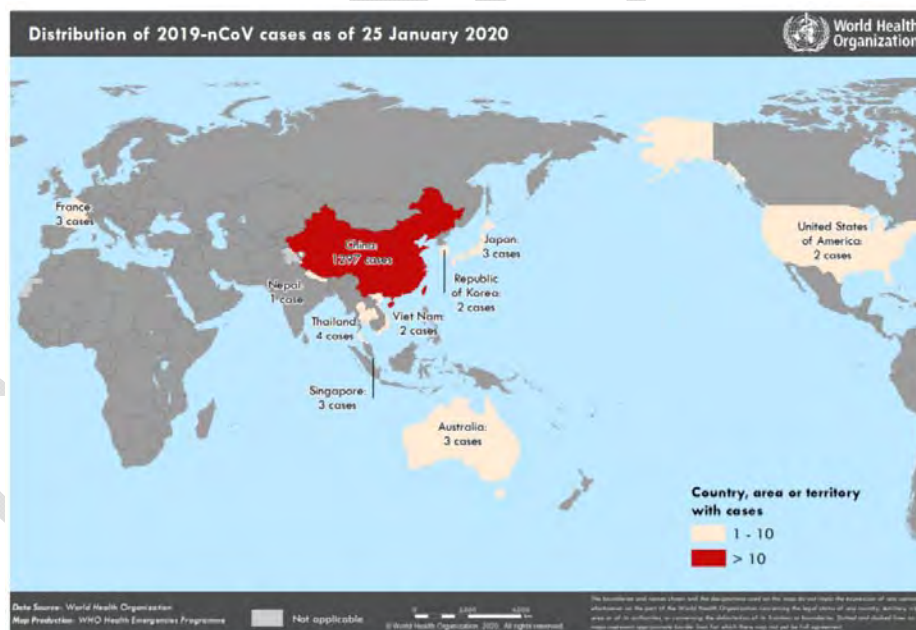


Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, 25 January 2020<sup>i</sup>

3. As of **14:00 26 January 2020**, approximately **2,011** confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported:
  - **1,975** cases have been reported in China in **thirty** provinces, with most cases from Hubei province;
  - **56** deaths have been reported. **52** of the deaths were from Hubei Province, one from Hebei Province, one in Heilongjiang province, **one in Henan Province, and one in**



- Shanghai.** Reports suggest that most of those who have died from the virus to date were suffering from pre-existent underlying health problems.
- Of the 1,975 confirmed cases in China, 324 have been reported as severe (not including the 56 reported deaths); 49 patients have been reported as recovered and discharged.
  - A total of 23,431 close contacts have been identified in mainland China: 1,875 have been released from medical observation, and 21,556 are still under medical observation.
  - 42 cases have been reported in Australia (4), France (3), Hong Kong (5), Japan (3), Macau (2), Malaysia (4), Nepal (1), Singapore (3), South Korea (2), Taiwan (3), Thailand (7), USA (2), and Vietnam (2), the majority of whom reported travel to Wuhan.
4. The WHO reported that the proportion of deaths in currently reported cases is 4 percent and that 25 percent of cases are reported to be severe. Due to the broad presentation of clinical symptoms, it is likely cases with mild symptoms or those who are asymptomatic are remaining undetected.
  5. There is not yet sufficient information to determine the incubation period. A preliminary incubation period of up to 14 days is being widely used in case definitions and advice to the public, including by the WHO, and by Australia and New Zealand health authorities.
  6. At this time, there is no clear evidence of sustained transmission. However, current evidence of limited human-to-human transmission reported by the WHO includes:
    - fourth-generation cases in Wuhan and second-generation cases outside Wuhan
    - amplification has occurred in one healthcare facility, but there have been very few reports of hospital outbreaks or infections of health care workers
    - on 23 January, the WHO reported that in the last week, less than 15 percent of new cases reported having visiting Huanan market, and family clusters involving persons with no reported travel to Wuhan have been reported from Guangdong Province
    - one confirmed case in Vietnam had no travel history to China, but was a family member of a confirmed case who visited Wuhan. This appears to be the first instance of human to human transmission outside China.
  7. The Australian Department of Health advised that there has been one confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in Victoria, and three confirmed cases in NSW. There are a small number of persons under investigation by state and territory health departments in NSW, QLD and WA. On 26 January 2020, cases that meet the suspected case definition had been reported by Victoria (11 cases), Queensland (4 cases), and NSW (3 cases). Testing of these cases is underway. It is anticipated that another case will be confirmed by NSW. There are a small number of persons that don't meet the suspected case definition but are still under investigation by state and territory health departments in NSW, QLD, VIC, TAS, and ACT.

### **World Health Organization (WHO) Advice**

8. The Director-General of the WHO convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee would reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further.
9. WHO's risk assessment of the situation has not changed and remains: very high in China; high at the regional level; moderate at the global level.
10. WHO's advice to countries like New Zealand is that further international exportation of cases may appear in any country. The WHO has encouraged countries to be prepared

for containment, including conducting active surveillance, measures for early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread, and to share information with WHO.

11. Countries should also follow travel advice from WHO. The WHO does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information.
12. The Ministry of Health is already undertaking actions that meet the WHO's recommendations. New Zealand's current activity is appropriate and will continue.

### **Risk Assessment – Key Messages**

13. Recognising that this is a rapidly evolving situation, based on the information currently available, the Ministry's assessment is that the risk of a sustained outbreak of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is low. This assessment recognises that there is a risk of 2019-nCoV infection being imported into New Zealand, especially given that the reported numbers are rapidly increasing overseas, New Zealand has close transport links to China, and Chinese New Year celebrations are underway.
14. The risk assessment for New Zealand will be reviewed **today**, in light of new information being received.
15. The objectives of the current response are:
  - to identify and investigate cases/clusters of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and to apply appropriate infection control measures to prevent its spread
  - to detect cases/clusters of 2019-nCoV infection and prevent transmission in high risk settings (i.e., hospitals)
  - to apply infection prevention and control practices, including basic respiratory hygiene, to minimise the transmission risk of respiratory infections, including infections by 2019-nCoV
  - to prevent sustained outbreaks of 2019-nCoV in the New Zealand community.

### **Whole of Government Response**

16. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is holding a Watch Group on 27 Jan for agencies with policy and operational responsibilities (those requested to attend have been invited directly).
17. Customs convened a meeting of the Border Working Group on 24 January 2020. Border agencies were provided with an update on the outbreak and endorsed the New Zealand Customs Service's advice to staff who deal with international travellers and conveyances.

### **New Zealand Health Sector Response**

18. Health officials convened an expert advisory group (TAG) on 24 January 2020 to peer review advice for health practitioners and the primary care sector, and to provide technical expertise to the Ministry. The TAG will meet again on Wednesday 29 January.
19. On 6, 10, and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions.

20. The Ministry's Regional Emergency Management Advisors are liaising with DHB emergency managers to check planning and readiness for hospitals to respond to reports of suspected cases among travellers or in the community.
21. On 24 January 2020, interim guidance for all health practitioners was published on the Ministry website. We also published interim guidance for primary care. We issued a National Health Advisory to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.
22. Homecare Medical have provided us with the script they are using for callers to Healthline and we will work with them to update it to take account of recommendations from WHO and the Ministry's advice as required. Homecare Medical had confirmed it has some staff who can speak a number of languages but also uses the on-call interpreting services for any callers who may not speak English as a first language.
23. We teleconferenced with public health unit staff on 24 January 2020 to provide an update on the WHO recommendations and Ministry advice.
24. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required. The Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR) advised that it has ordered reagents which are expected to arrive on Tuesday. It will take some time to test the methodology but if this goes well then ESR will be able to offer testing in New Zealand from Sunday (and possibly earlier).
25. A Cabinet Paper has been prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process.
26. The Medical Officer of Health for Toi Te Ora Public Health advised that a tour group of nineteen Chinese nationals, currently in Rotorua, were informed that they were on the same flight to Australia as a confirmed case in Australia. The Medical Officer of Health arranged for St John paramedics to undertake an assessment **and three visitors were referred to Rotorua Hospital for further assessment. No cases of 2019-nCoV are suspected.** The visitors have been advised of symptoms of concern and public health staff will contact them each day to check their state of health.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

27. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
28. There are around 450,000 travellers from China to New Zealand each year, and around 400,000 of those arrive on direct flights. We expect around 50,000 travellers from China during the Chinese New Year.
29. At the border, we are currently:
- keeping border stakeholders informed including border agency, airport and airline staff through border advisories
  - supporting border stakeholders to remind their staff of appropriate measures to protect from respiratory diseases (including from travellers from the northern hemisphere with flu as it is their flu season)

- providing advice to travellers arriving at New Zealand points of entry so they can recognise symptoms of concern and know to call Healthline to get advice on appropriate personal protection and obtaining treatment
  - health advice cards in English and Chinese (simplified and traditional)
  - electronic signage (where available) at Customs areas
  - health advice cards at Customs officers' desks
  - public health staff are present at Auckland and Christchurch International Airports to provide information to traveller on flights from mainland China: these staff are not undertaking screening or clinical assessments of all arrivals at this point. A public health nurse will be available to take the temperature of any passengers who report they are not well. If the passenger's temperature is over 38 C, this will trigger the usual ill traveller response protocol.
  - **Five-hundred and sixty-four passengers arriving at Auckland Airport on two flights from mainland China this morning were met by public health staff assisting with information relating to the coronavirus outbreak. No passengers were identified as displaying symptoms of the virus.**
  - maintaining advice on our website, including a fact sheet for travellers, at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
- responding to reports of ill travellers
- undertaking contact tracing for casual and close contacts of confirmed cases on flights to New Zealand
- undertaking contact tracing of close contacts in New Zealand of confirmed cases overseas
- through ISS McKay, providing the health advice poster and the travel advice cards (English and Chinese versions) to incoming cruise vessels to display for passengers, and ensuring messaging is displayed in terminals
- through Tourism Industry Aotearoa, providing advice to traveller within New Zealand through accommodation providers and tour operators
- monitoring border measures undertaken by other countries, particularly Australia, and any recommendations from WHO
- finalising guidance for responding to ill travellers.

30. We have assessed the current border responses against the actions in the New Zealand Pandemic Influenza Plan. The only outstanding actions for the current response are to finalise the guidance for responding to ill traveller response and to remind DHB public health units to review the availability of quarantine facilities. We intend to complete these actions today.

## Public Information

31. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email. **The Ministry's novel coronavirus webpage has received over 25,000 views.**
32. Updated key messages **are attached.**
33. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.
34. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.

35. The Ministry's Communications Team are working with DHB communications advisors to share key messages and identify questions for the operational teams to answer. **This includes messaging targeted at Chinese social media and for Chinese communities.**

### Other Country Responses

36. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health is providing us with its sitreps. The National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in consultation with the NIR, raised the level of travel advice for Wuhan to 'level 3 – reconsider your need to travel' and issued a Smartraveller bulletin on the outbreak.
37. The Department of Health web page for the 2019-nCoV outbreak, including information on the current situation, clinical symptoms, advice to travellers and personal protective measures is live and continues to be updated.
38. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. 2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.
39. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is being provided on arrival, to all passengers on flights from mainland China to Australia. The fact sheet instructs passengers what to do if they feel unwell and what to do if they become unwell post travel. The fact sheet is in both English and Chinese (Mandarin).*
  - ***Health is working with Agriculture on implementation of airport announcements to reach passengers from a greater number of flights from Asia, making fact sheets available in airports and exploring other communication options.***
  - *The Traveller with Illness Checklist has been updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers.*
  - *Digital banners are displayed in international airports and major ports to alert travellers of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they are showing symptoms or become ill.*
    - *Pull-up banners have also been distributed to international airports without electronic message board capability.*
  - *Specific fact sheets have been provided to borders workers, airlines and the cruise industry.*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness.*
40. This is consistent with NZ measures, as described in paragraph 28 above.
41. **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs):** on 23 January 2020, MFAT officials met with partners of the Pacific health security group to discuss the situation with novel coronavirus in the Pacific. Should 2019-nCoV impact the Pacific, PICs are likely to need additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and support for the preparation and testing of samples. They may also need influenza vaccine for health workers who may be impacted by 2019-nCoV and possibly extra antibiotics (for secondary infections). Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu were assessed by WHO to be ineffective in treating the virus.
42. **Samoa:** as of 23 January 2020, Samoan authorities have implemented travel restrictions in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China. MFAT's Safe Travel website advises that all travelers to Samoa are required to undergo medical clearance at

least three days before travelling to Samoa to confirm that they are free of any infectious diseases. All travelers from 2019 novel coronavirus affected countries must spend at least 14 days in a country free of 2019 novel coronavirus and undergo medical clearance prior to travel to Samoa. If in the event a traveler arrives within the 14 day period, health quarantine measures will be applied and deportation to the country of travel origin will be considered.

#### **Next Report**

43. The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Tuesday 28 January 2020**.

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health

CONFIDENTIAL



## Key Messages

From today, public health staff are at Christchurch and Auckland International Airports as flights from mainland China arrive.

Staff will be taking the temperatures of anyone who is feeling unwell and anyone with a temperature higher than 38 degrees Celsius will be referred for appropriate assessment.

Auckland and Canterbury DHBs have also developed further resources, including information posters and pamphlets to circulate to travellers.

The Ministry is continuing to work closely alongside DHBs and Public Health Units around the country and they will keep us up to date of any suspected cases.

New Zealand laboratories should be ready to test for the novel coronavirus by later this week. Until then, we have an arrangement in place so we can send samples to Australia for testing.

Work is already underway to make 2019 N-CoV a notifiable disease in New Zealand and that's expected to be in place this week.

Although it's not currently formally notifiable, we are supporting public health officials to keep us fully informed.

We will be reviewing the risk assessment of 2019 N-CoV to New Zealand today.

Health advice cards in both traditional and simplified Chinese are available at international points of entry. These cards provide general advice on symptoms of concern and advise ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116 and mention their travel history.

Work is already underway to make 2019 N-CoV a notifiable disease in New Zealand.

The Ministry is in regular communication with NZ Customs and with its support, banners have been developed for points of entry in traditional and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the health advice cards (see overleaf). The graphics have been sent to DHBs for them to include their logos and information.

The Ministry is in regular contact with Chinese media in New Zealand and we are working with DHBs to provide information in Chinese on social media. We have also provided a translated update on the social site WeChat, addressing the recent speculation around N-CoV.

You can find more information here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/novel-coronavirus-update>

Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.

The Ministry will be setting up the National Health Coordination Centre to provide an ongoing N-CovV response and support to health professionals. We expect to be able to confirm that in the coming days.

# Have you or someone you know travelled to China?



- Do you have flu-like symptoms, a fever or acute respiratory illness?

**AND**

- Have you travelled in the past 14 days to Wuhan, China?

**OR**

- Have you been in close physical contact with someone with a confirmed case of Coronavirus (nCoV)?

## If you answered yes:



**1**

**Put on a  
face mask**



**2**

**Use the hand gel  
provided**



**3**

**Let the nurse/  
receptionist  
know immediately**

Thank you for helping us keep  
our patients and staff safe







## SITREP 08

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1100 hrs, 28 January 2020**

**IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION**

#### New information in red text

The Public Health Group has **activated the National Health Coordination Centre** to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 28 January 2020**.

#### Summary

1. An outbreak of 2019-nCoV is centered in Hubei Province, China. Over 2700 cases have been reported to date with 80 deaths, and numbers are continuing to significantly increase daily. 55 cases have been reported to date in fourteen countries outside mainland China. The World Health Organization has not declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and has advised countries like New Zealand to expect imported cases. The WHO does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers. New Zealand's risk assessment is that the likelihood of one or more imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is **high**. The likelihood of limited person-to-person transmission is **low to moderate** and the likelihood of sustained transmission, and widespread outbreaks, is **low**.
2. Border measures are aimed at providing travellers, particularly from mainland China, with information about symptoms of concern and asking them to phone Healthline if they become unwell. The health sector is preparing to respond to suspected and confirmed cases. Public information is being updated on the Ministry's website and daily media briefings are being held.

#### International Outbreak Situation

3. Information about case numbers and mortality is variable. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <sup>s 6(a)</sup> and from the Australian Department of Health. We are also monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
4. As of 14:00 **27 January 2020**, approximately **2,798** confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported:
  - **2,744** cases have been reported in China in thirty provinces, with **1,423** cases from Hubei province;
  - **80** deaths have been reported. **76** of the deaths were from Hubei Province, one from Hebei Province, one in Heilongjiang province, one in Henan Province, and one in Shanghai. Reports suggest that most of those who have died from the virus to date were suffering from pre-existent underlying health problems.
  - Of the **2,744** confirmed cases in China, **461** have been reported as severe (not including the **80** reported deaths).
  - A total of **32,799** close contacts have been identified in mainland China: **30,453** are under medical observation.
  - **55** cases have been reported outside mainland China: Australia (**5**), Canada (**1**), France (**3**), Hong Kong (**8**), Japan (**3**), Macau (**5**), Malaysia (**4**), Nepal (**1**), Singapore

(4), South Korea (3), Taiwan (4), Thailand (7), USA (5), and Vietnam (2), the majority of whom reported travel to Wuhan.

5. The Australian Department of Health provided the following map of countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, 25 January 2020.

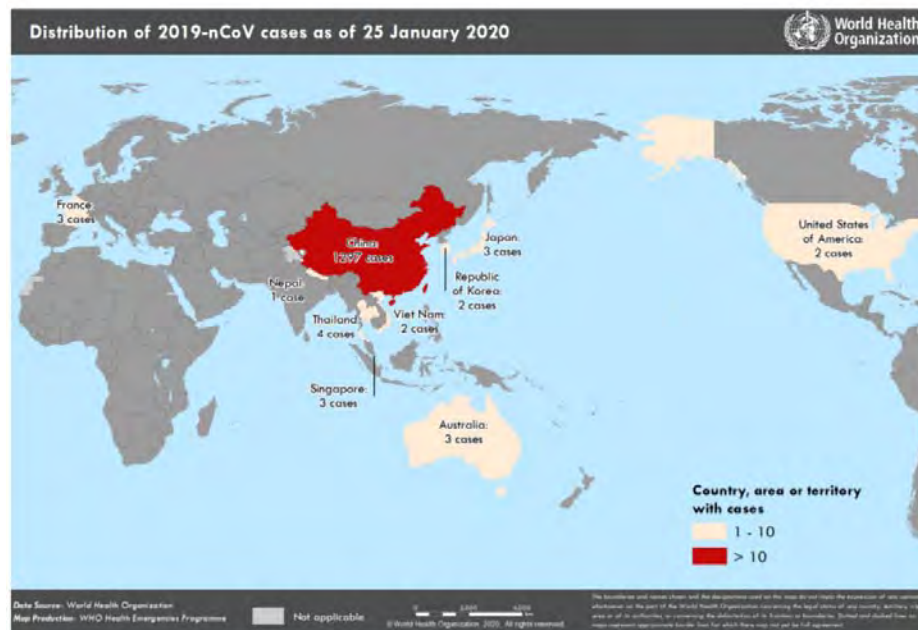


Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV

6. The WHO reported that the proportion of deaths in currently reported cases is 4 percent and that 25 percent of cases are reported to be severe. Due to the broad presentation of clinical symptoms, it is likely cases with mild symptoms or those who are asymptomatic are remaining undetected.
7. There is not yet sufficient information to determine the incubation period. WHO has reported a current estimate of the incubation period to range from 2-10 days, noting that estimates will be refined as more data become available. A preliminary incubation period of up to 14 days is being widely used in case definitions and advice to the public, including by Australia and New Zealand health authorities.
8. At this time, there is no clear evidence of sustained transmission. However, current evidence of limited human-to-human transmission reported by the WHO includes:
  - fourth-generation cases in Wuhan and second-generation cases outside Wuhan
  - amplification has occurred in one healthcare facility, but there have been very few reports of hospital outbreaks or infections of health care workers
  - on 23 January, the WHO reported that in the last week, less than 15 percent of new cases reported having visiting Huanan market, and family clusters involving persons with no reported travel to Wuhan have been reported from Guangdong Province
  - one confirmed case in Vietnam had no travel history to China, but was a family member of a confirmed case who visited Wuhan. This appears to be the first instance of human to human transmission outside China.
9. The Australian Department of Health advised that there has been one confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in Victoria, and four confirmed cases in New South Wales (NSW). Of the NSW cases, three had travelled to Wuhan, China and one had direct contact with a confirmed case from Wuhan while in China. On 27 January 2020, cases that meet the suspected case definition had been reported by Victoria (10), Queensland (3), and NSW

(4) and Western Australia (3). Testing of these cases is underway. There are a small number of persons that don't meet the suspected case definition but are still under investigation by state and territory health departments in NSW, QLD, VIC, TAS, and ACT.

### World Health Organization (WHO) Advice

10. The Director-General of the WHO convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee would reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further.
11. WHO's risk assessment of the situation has not changed and remains: very high in China; high at the regional level; and **high** at the global level. **The WHO advised of an error in their 23-25 January WHO situation reports, which incorrectly reported the global level to be moderate.**
12. WHO's advice to countries like New Zealand is that further international exportation of cases may appear in any country. The WHO has encouraged countries to be prepared for containment, including conducting active surveillance, measures for early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread, and to share information with WHO.
13. Countries should also follow travel advice from WHO. The WHO does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information.
14. The Ministry of Health is already undertaking actions that meet the WHO's recommendations. New Zealand's current activity is appropriate and will continue.

### Risk Assessment – Key Messages

15. The risk assessment for New Zealand was reviewed on **Monday 27 January 2020.**
16. **The likelihood of one or more imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is high. This assessment takes into account that the reported numbers are rapidly increasing overseas, New Zealand has close transport links to China, and Chinese New Year celebrations are underway.**
17. **The likelihood of limited person-to-person transmission is low to moderate and the likelihood of sustained transmission, and widespread outbreaks, is low. This assessment takes into account the evidence to date which suggests limited human-to-human transmission and assumes that symptomatic cases transmit the virus and that the timely and robust management of both cases and their contacts will limit the spread of disease.**
18. **It is important to note that this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and this risk assessment may change as more information on the 2019-nCoV and its epidemiology becomes available.**
19. The objectives of the current response are:
  - to identify and investigate cases/clusters of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and to apply appropriate infection control measures to prevent its spread
  - to detect cases/clusters of 2019-nCoV infection and prevent transmission in high risk settings (i.e., hospitals)
  - to apply infection prevention and control practices, including basic respiratory hygiene, to minimise the transmission risk of respiratory infections, including infections by 2019-nCoV

- to prevent sustained outbreaks of 2019-nCoV in the New Zealand community.

## Whole of Government Response

20. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is held a Watch Group on 27 Jan for agencies with policy and operational responsibilities. The next meeting will be held on Friday 31 January 2020.
21. Customs convened a meeting of the Border Working Group on 27 January 2020. Border agencies discussed the use of PPE stocks and agreed to share these with border agency partners where needed, taking a wider border sector approach; agreed that we are using the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan (IPAP) as a guide and that border agencies should identify which actions are relevant in order to be informed and prepared to implement border options if requested. Ministry of Health officials will remind border health protection staff to inform local border officials of any vessel that reports ill health among the crew (or passengers). Border agency staff can then discuss with border health officials if any additional PPE or other measures are recommended. The Border Sector Working Group agreed to meet weekly for a thirty minute catch up.
22. We are working with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials to ensure we have effective processes for determining, and responding to, health support that Pacific Island countries and territories may need, including clinical input, clinical supplies, personal protective equipment, and any requests for exit screening of travellers from New Zealand to their countries.

## New Zealand Health Sector Response

23. Health officials convened an expert advisory group (TAG) on 24 January 2020 to peer review advice for health practitioners and the primary care sector, and to provide technical expertise to the Ministry. The TAG will meet again on Wednesday 29 January.
24. Andy Simpson, our Chief Medical Officer, is convening a meeting of DHB chief medical officers this week, to discuss the 2019-nCoV outbreak and their readiness to respond to suspected and confirmed cases.
25. On 6, 10, and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions. We sent a National Health Advisory this morning advising the National Health Coordination Centre had been activated.
26. We have checked with DHB emergency managers to confirm DHB readiness to respond to suspected cases of 2019 n-CoV. DHBs have set up working groups or incident management teams and are prepared to escalate to stand up emergency operating centres if required. Their focus is on activities such as: updating clinical guidelines, preparing protocols for the testing of pathology samples, briefing clinical teams, providing information for staff and visitors to the hospital, and stakeholder engagement. Issues identified are checking bulk pandemic supplies, ensuring health and safety for staff, and coordinating communications across the local sector and with local agencies. We are teleconferencing with DHBs later today.
27. On 24 January 2020, interim guidance for all health practitioners was published on the Ministry website. We also published interim guidance for primary care. We issued a

National Health Advisory to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.

28. Homecare Medical confirmed it has some staff who can speak a number of languages but also uses the on-call interpreting services for any callers who may not speak English as a first language.
29. We teleconferenced with public health unit staff on 24 January 2020 to provide an update on the WHO recommendations and Ministry advice. **The next teleconference will be held on Thursday 30 January 2020.**
30. Laboratory analysis of specimens from suspected cases is available via VIDRL (Melbourne) if required. The Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR) advised that it may be able to offer testing in New Zealand from Sunday (and possibly earlier). **ESR is developing advice on specimen handling, dispatch and laboratory analysis.**
31. **DHBs are beginning to respond to requests for assessments of unwell people. To date no-one has met the definition of a suspected case.**
32. **Advice is being prepared for funeral directors who may be handling deceased who were infected with 2019-nCoV.**
33. A Cabinet Paper has been prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process. **ESR has developed a case report form and prepared advice for notifying suspected and confirmed cases.**

#### **New Zealand Border Response**

34. At this time, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
35. There are around 450,000 travellers from China to New Zealand each year, and around 400,000 of those arrive on direct flights. We expect around 50,000 travellers from China during the Chinese New Year.
36. At the border, we are currently:
  - keeping border stakeholders informed including border agency, airport and airline staff through border advisories
  - supporting border stakeholders to remind their staff of appropriate measures to protect from respiratory diseases (including from travellers from the northern hemisphere with flu as it is their flu season)
  - providing advice to travellers arriving at New Zealand points of entry so they can recognise symptoms of concern and know to call Healthline to get advice on appropriate personal protection and obtaining treatment
    - health advice cards in English and Chinese (simplified and traditional)
    - electronic signage (where available) at Customs areas
    - health advice cards at Customs officers' desks
    - public health staff are present at Auckland and Christchurch International Airports to provide information to traveller on flights from mainland China: these staff are not undertaking screening or clinical assessments of all arrivals at this point. A public health nurse will be available to take the temperature of any



passengers who report they are not well. If the passenger's temperature is over 38 C, this will trigger the usual ill traveller response protocol.

- public health staff are also available to talk to border officials and others working at the airports to answer questions about 2019-nCoV
- public health staff met 1262 passengers on five flights arriving at Auckland Airport and 288 passengers on one flight arriving at Christchurch International Airport from mainland China yesterday. No travellers have self-identified as unwell and no-one has required nurse assessment to date.
- At Christchurch International Airport, Customs officers identified a passenger who they had been informed had been in Wuhan and/or left quarantine. Public health staff interviewed the traveller and checked his temperature and had no concerns. The traveller had transited through Wuhan for only half an hour. (The passenger told public health staff that it was the eight time he had been checked.)
- maintaining advice on our website, including a fact sheet for travellers, at
- responding to reports of ill travellers
- undertaking contact tracing for casual and close contacts of confirmed cases on flights to New Zealand
- undertaking contact tracing of close contacts in New Zealand of confirmed cases overseas
- through ISS McKay, providing the health advice poster and the travel advice cards (English and Chinese versions) to incoming cruise vessels to display for passengers, and ensuring messaging is displayed in terminals
- through Tourism Industry Aotearoa, providing advice to traveller within New Zealand through accommodation providers and tour operators
- monitoring border measures undertaken by other countries, particularly Australia, and any recommendations from WHO
- finalising guidance for responding to ill travellers.

37. We have assessed the current border responses against the actions in the New Zealand Pandemic Influenza Plan. The only outstanding actions for the current response are to finalise the guidance for responding to ill traveller response and to remind DHB public health units to review the availability of quarantine facilities. We intend to complete these actions today.

## Public Information

38. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's info@health.govt.nz email. The Ministry's novel coronavirus webpage has received over 25,000 views.

39. Updated key messages are attached. Key messages from Government agency staff will be developed.

40. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.

41. Health officials are working with MFAT to update the Safe Travel website.

42. The Ministry's Communications Team are working with DHB communications advisors to share key messages and identify questions for the operational teams to answer. This includes messaging targeted at Chinese social media and for Chinese communities.



## Other Country Responses

43. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health is providing us with its sitreps. The National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in consultation with the NIR, raised the level of travel advice for Wuhan to 'level 3 – reconsider your need to travel' and issued a Smartraveller bulletin on the outbreak.
44. The Department of Health web page for the 2019-nCoV outbreak, including information on the current situation, clinical symptoms, advice to travellers and personal protective measures is live and continues to be updated.
45. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. 2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.
46. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is being provided on arrival, to all passengers on flights from mainland China to Australia. The fact sheet instructs passengers what to do if they feel unwell and what to do if they become unwell post travel. The fact sheet is in both English and Chinese (Mandarin). **These fact sheets will also be made available in airports.***
  - ***Bilingual messaging has been provided to airports to broadcast in terminals, and to airlines to be played prior to arrival. This messaging is also being updated for ports and is expected to be distributed in the coming days.***
  - *Digital banners are displayed in international airports and major ports to alert travellers of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they are showing symptoms or become ill.*
    - *Pull-up banners have also been distributed to international airports without electronic message board capability.*
    - *Specific fact sheets have been provided to borders workers, airlines and the cruise industry.*
    - *The Traveller with Illness Checklist has been updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers*
  - *The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness.*
47. This is consistent with NZ measures, as described in paragraph 28 above.
48. **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs):** on 23 January 2020, MFAT officials met with partners of the Pacific health security group to discuss the situation with novel coronavirus in the Pacific. Should 2019-nCoV impact the Pacific, PICs are likely to need additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and support for the preparation and testing of samples. They may also need influenza vaccine for health workers who may be impacted by 2019-nCoV and possibly extra antibiotics (for secondary infections). Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu were assessed by WHO to be ineffective in treating the virus.
49. **Samoa:** as of 23 January 2020, Samoan authorities have implemented travel restrictions in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China. MFAT's Safe Travel website advises that all travelers to Samoa are required to undergo medical clearance at least three days before travelling to Samoa to confirm that they are free of any infectious diseases. All travelers from 2019 novel coronavirus affected countries must spend at least 14 days in a country free of 2019 novel coronavirus and undergo medical clearance

prior to travel to Samoa. If in the event a traveler arrives within the 14 day period, health quarantine measures will be applied and deportation to the country of travel origin will be considered.

#### **Next Report**

50. The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Wednesday 29 January 2020**.

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**Prepared by:** Sally Gilbert, Manager Environmental; & Border Health

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health

CONFIDENTIAL

## Key Messages

A paper is expected to be presented to Cabinet today to make 2019 N-CoV a notifiable disease.

Although it's not currently formally notifiable, we are supporting public health officials to keep us fully informed.

The National Health Coordination Centre has been activated today to coordinate the Ministry's response to 2019 N-CoV.

ESR is continuing to develop its diagnostic testing for 2019 N-CoV. New Zealand laboratories should be ready to test for the novel coronavirus by later this week.

Until then, we have an arrangement in place so we can send samples to Australia for testing.

Public Health stuff in Auckland and Christchurch have now had a full day meeting passengers off flights from mainland China.

Staff will remain at those two airports taking the temperatures of anyone who is feeling unwell and anyone with a temperature higher than 38 degrees Celsius will be referred for appropriate assessment.

At least 90% of passengers took handouts in Auckland – there were no presentations to the nurses at Auckland International Airport.

The Ministry is continuing to work closely alongside DHBs and Public Health Units around the country and they will keep us up to date of any suspected cases.

Health advice cards in both traditional and simplified Chinese are available at international points of entry. These cards provide general advice on symptoms of concern and advise ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116 and mention their travel history.

The Ministry is in regular communication with NZ Customs and with its support, banners have been developed for points of entry in traditional and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the health advice cards (see overleaf). The graphics have been sent to DHBs for them to include their logos and information.

The Ministry is in regular contact with Chinese media in New Zealand and we are working with DHBs to provide information in Chinese on social media. We have also provided a translated update on the social site WeChat, addressing the recent speculation around N-CoV.

You can find more information here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/novel-coronavirus-update>

Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.



## SITREP 09

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1100 hrs 29 January 2020,**

**IN CONFIDENCE**

#### New information in red text

The Public Health Group has activated the National Health Coordination Centre to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 29 January 2020.**

#### Summary

1. An outbreak of 2019-nCoV is centrally located in Hubei Province, China. **As of 14:00 28 January 2020 there have been approximately 4,580 confirmed cases and 106 deaths. Of the confirmed cases, there have been 65 exported cases in 16 countries.** The World Health Organization has not declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and has advised countries like New Zealand to expect imported cases. The WHO does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers. New Zealand's risk assessment is that the likelihood of one or more imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is high. The likelihood of limited person-to-person transmission is low to moderate and the likelihood of sustained transmission, and widespread outbreaks, is low.
2. The border measures are aimed at providing travellers, particularly from mainland China, with information about symptoms of concern and asking them to phone Healthline if they become unwell. The health sector is preparing to respond to suspected and confirmed cases. Public information is being updated on the Ministry's website and daily media briefings are being held.

#### International Outbreak Situation

3. The information about case numbers and mortality has been variable. Information from the WHO is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <sup>s 6(a)</sup> and from the Australian Department of Health. We are monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
4. As of 14:00 **28 January 2020**, approximately **4,580 confirmed** cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported globally:
  - **4,515** cases have been reported in mainland China in 30 provinces. Of these approximately **2,714** have been from Hubei Province.
  - **65** exported cases have been reported in **16 countries**: 8 in Hong Kong, **7** in Macau, **5** in Taiwan, **4** in Japan, **8** in Thailand, 4 in Malaysia, **4** in South Korea, 2 in Vietnam, **5** in Singapore, 1 in Nepal, 3 in France, **5** in Australia, 5 in the US, 2 in Canada, **1 in Cambodia, and 1 in Germany.**
  - **Of the 106 confirmed deaths:**

- 100 have been from Hubei Province, one from Hebei province, one from Heilongjiang province, one from Henan Province, **one in Beijing, one in Shanghai, and one in Hainan Province.**
- Of the 24 deaths for which information has been provided, ages ranged from 36 to 89 years (median 71.5 years), male to female ratio was 2:1 and 10 are reported to have had underlying medical conditions.
- Of the **4,515** confirmed cases in mainland China:
  - **976** cases, rate of **4.6%**, have been reported as severe (not including the **106** reported deaths).

Figure 1: Counties, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, 27 January 2020

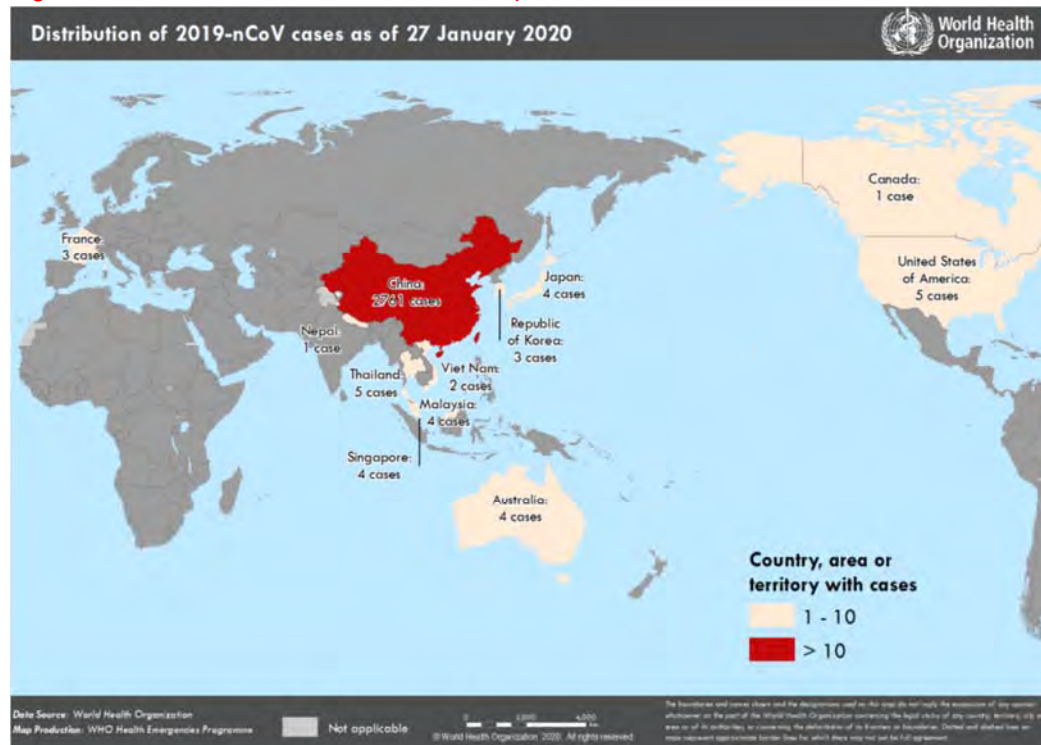
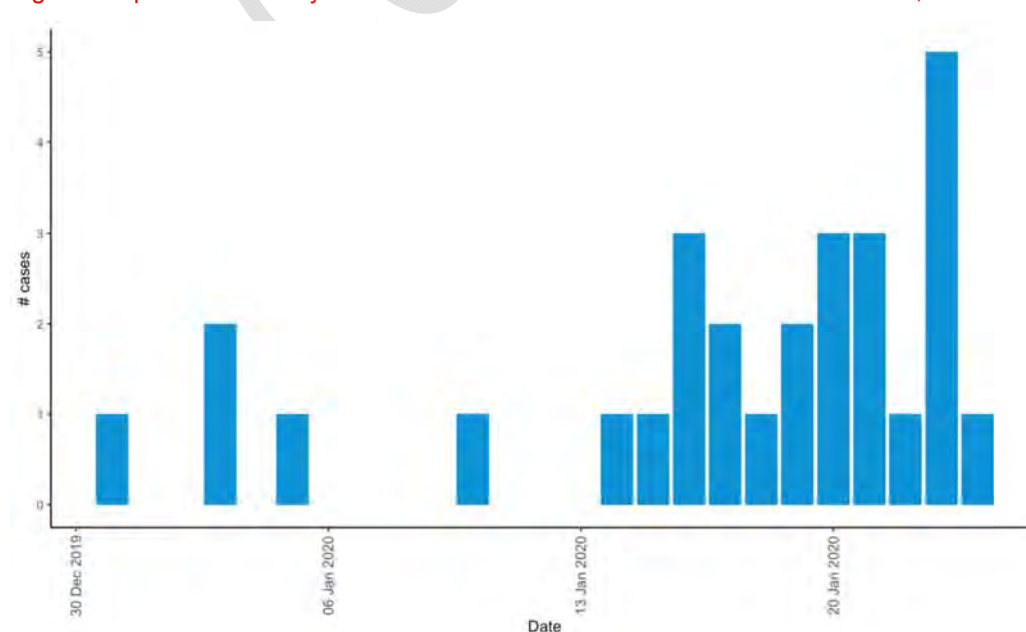


Figure 2: Epidemic curve by date of onset of 2019-nCoV cases identified of China, 27 January 2020



## World Health Organization (WHO) Advice

5. The Director-General of the WHO convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee would reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further.
6. The WHO Director-General has visited Beijing and reportedly commended China for its efforts to contain the virus. In comments carried by state media, the DG was reported as saying that the WHO does not recommend the evacuation of nationals, and called on the international community to remain calm and not overreact.
7. WHO's assessment of the risk of this event has not changed since the last update (22 January 2020): very high in China, high at the regional level and high at the global level. In the WHO's 26 January situation reports, it was noted that an error was published in the 23-25 January WHO situation reports, which incorrectly summarised the global level to be moderate.
8. On 27 January 2020, the WHO updated its advice for international traffic in relation to the outbreak of 2019-nCoV. This includes advice for entry screening in countries/areas without transmission of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV that choose to perform entry screening. The current Australian border measures and messages align with this advice.

## Risk Assessment – Key Messages

9. Cabinet has now authorised an Infectious and Notifiable Diseases Order to make 2019-nCoV notifiable.
10. 2019-nCoV will be a notifiable disease from tomorrow (30 January). This means medical officers of health will have certain powers, if deemed necessary, including the ability to:
  - Formally initiate contact tracing of contacts of cases of coronavirus
  - Issue mandatory directions such as restricting movement and travel
  - Apply for court orders such as for treatment
  - Issue administrative 72-hour detention orders (urgent public health orders)
11. Until it becomes a notifiable disease, the Ministry is supporting public health officials to keep us fully informed.
12. Testing for 2019 N-CoV in New Zealand is expected to be ready by the end of the week. ESR is currently working on developing this test. We are, in the meantime, able to test by sending samples to Australia.
13. Our current assessment is that the likelihood of a case arriving in New Zealand is high, but the likelihood of a case transmitting to another person in New Zealand is low to moderate.
14. The likelihood of a sustained community outbreak in New Zealand also remains low.
15. The Ministry is continuing to work closely alongside DHBs and Public Health Units around the country and they will keep us up to date of any suspected cases.



16. **Health advice cards** in both traditional and simplified Chinese are available at international points of entry. These cards provide general advice on symptoms of concern and advise ill travellers to call Healthline (for free) on **0800 611 116** and mention their travel history.
17. The Ministry is in regular communication with NZ Customs and with its support, **banners** have been developed for points of entry in traditional and simplified Chinese to draw attention to the health advice cards (see overleaf). The graphics have been sent to DHBs for them to include their logos and information.
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### **Whole of Government Response**

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23. Andy Simpson, our Chief Medical Officer, is convening a meeting of DHB chief medical officers this week, to discuss the 2019-nCoV outbreak and their readiness to respond to suspected and confirmed cases.
24. On 6, 10, and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be

implemented in addition to standard precautions. We sent a National Health Advisory this morning advising the National Health Coordination Centre had been activated.

25. We have checked with DHB emergency managers to confirm DHB readiness to respond to suspected cases of 2019 n-CoV. DHBs have set up working groups or incident management teams and are prepared to escalate to stand up emergency operating centres if required. Their focus is on activities such as: updating clinical guidelines, preparing protocols for the testing of pathology samples, briefing clinical teams, providing information for staff and visitors to the hospital, and stakeholder engagement. Issues identified are checking bulk pandemic supplies, ensuring health and safety for staff, and coordinating communications across the local sector and with local agencies. We are teleconferencing with DHBs later today.
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32. A Cabinet Paper has been prepared to amend the schedules to the Health Act 1956 to include this novel coronavirus. Changes to the schedules require Cabinet approval and an Order in Council, but no parliamentary process. ESR has developed a case report form and prepared advice for notifying suspected and confirmed cases.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

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34. There are around 450,000 travellers from China to New Zealand each year, and around 400,000 of those arrive on direct flights. We expect around 50,000 travellers from China during the Chinese New Year.

35. The guidance for responding to ill travellers has been finalised and sent to public health units.
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- keeping border stakeholders informed including border agency, airport and airline staff through border advisories
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  - through the Visitor Sector Emergency Advisory Group and Tourism Industry Aotearoa, providing advice to traveller within New Zealand through accommodation providers and tour operators
  - monitoring border measures undertaken by other countries, particularly Australia, and any recommendations from WHO

## Public Information

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42. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health is providing us with its sitreps. The National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in consultation with the NIR, raised the level of travel advice for Wuhan to 'level 3 – reconsider your need to travel' and issued a Smarttraveller bulletin on the outbreak.
43. The Department of Health web page for the 2019-nCoV outbreak, including information on the current situation, clinical symptoms, advice to travellers and personal protective measures is live and continues to be updated.
44. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. 2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.
45. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is being provided on arrival, to all passengers on flights from mainland China to Australia. The fact sheet instructs passengers what to do if they feel unwell and what to do if they become unwell post travel. The fact sheet is in both English and Chinese (Mandarin). These fact sheets will also be made available in airports.*
  - *Bilingual messaging has been provided to airports to broadcast in terminals, and to airlines to be played prior to arrival. This messaging is also being updated for ports and is expected to be distributed in the coming days.*
  - *Digital banners are displayed in international airports and major ports to alert travellers of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they are showing symptoms or become ill.*
    - *Pull-up banners have also been distributed to international airports without electronic message board capability.*
    - *Specific fact sheets have been provided to borders workers, airlines and the cruise industry.*
    - *The Traveller with Illness Checklist has been updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers*
- The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness.*
46. This is consistent with NZ measures, as described in paragraph 28 above.
47. **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs):** on 23 January 2020, MFAT officials met with partners of the Pacific health security group to discuss the situation with novel coronavirus in the Pacific. Should 2019-nCoV impact the Pacific, PICs are likely to need additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and support for the preparation and testing of samples. They may also need influenza vaccine for health workers who may be impacted by 2019-nCoV and possibly extra antibiotics (for secondary infections). Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu were assessed by WHO to be ineffective in treating the virus.

48. **Samoa:** as of 23 January 2020, Samoan authorities have implemented travel restrictions in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China. MFAT's Safe Travel website advises that all travelers to Samoa are required to undergo medical clearance at least three days before travelling to Samoa to confirm that they are free of any infectious diseases. All travelers from 2019 novel coronavirus affected countries must spend at least 14 days in a country free of 2019 novel coronavirus and undergo medical clearance prior to travel to Samoa. If in the event a traveler arrives within the 14 day period, health quarantine measures will be applied and deportation to the country of travel origin will be considered.

## Appendices

### NHCC Contact Information: 29/01/2020

National Coordinator – Jane Kelley	<a href="mailto:NHCC_NationalCoordinator@health.govt.nz">NHCC_NationalCoordinator@health.govt.nz</a>
Response Manager - Murray Mills	<a href="mailto:NHCC_responsemanager@health.govt.nz">NHCC_responsemanager@health.govt.nz</a>
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Operations – Paul Badco 04 816 3484	<a href="mailto:NHCC_operations@health.govt.nz">NHCC_operations@health.govt.nz</a>
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PIM – Vi Vu 04 816 3993	<a href="mailto:NHCC_PIMManger@health.govt.nz">NHCC_PIMManger@health.govt.nz</a>
Intelligence – Kenneth Gustafson 04 816 3909	<a href="mailto:NHCC_Intelligence@health.govt.nz">NHCC_Intelligence@health.govt.nz</a>
Planning – Tara Swadi 04 816 3915	<a href="mailto:NHCC_planning@health.govt.nz">NHCC_planning@health.govt.nz</a>

### Next Report

The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Wednesday 30 January 2020.**

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**Prepared by:** Kenneth Gustafson, Senior Advisor; Emergency Management

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health



## SITREP 10

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1100 hrs 30 January 2020,**

**IN CONFIDENCE**

#### New information in red text

The Public Health Group has activated the National Health Coordination Centre to respond to this developing event. Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 30 January 2020.**

#### Summary

1. Since the first reported cases in late December, an outbreak of 2019-nCoV has been on going in Mainland China with the epicentre being Hubei Province, China. There have been variable numbers being reported, but the outbreak has continued to be mainly geographically contained. **As of 29 January 2020, there have been approximately 6,065 confirmed cases and 132 deaths. Of the confirmed cases, there have been a reported 93 exported cases in 18 countries.** The World Health Organization has not declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), but there is a IHR Emergency Committee to take place at **7:30 31 January NZ Time.** The WHO has advised countries like New Zealand to expect imported cases. New Zealand's risk assessment is that the likelihood of one or more imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is high. The likelihood of limited person-to-person transmission is **moderate** and the likelihood of sustained transmission, and widespread outbreaks, is low.

#### International Outbreak Situation

2. The information about case numbers and mortality has been variable. Information from the WHO is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade **S 6(a)** and from the Australian Department of Health. We are monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
3. As of 14:00 **29 January 2020**, approximately **6,065 confirmed** cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported globally:
  - **5,974** cases have been reported in mainland China in **31** provinces. Of these approximately **3,554 (~60%)** have been from Hubei Province.
  - **93** exported cases have been reported in **18 countries**: 8 in Hong Kong, 7 in Macau, **8** in Taiwan, **7** in Japan, **14** in Thailand, **7** in Malaysia, 4 in South Korea, 2 in Vietnam, **7** in Singapore, 1 in Nepal, **4** in France, **7** in Australia, 5 in the US, 2 in Canada, 1 in Cambodia, **4 in Germany, 1 in Sri Lanka, and 4 in United Arab Emirates.**
  - **Of the 132 confirmed deaths:**
    - **125** have been from Hubei Province, **two** from Henan province, one from Hebei province, one from Heilongjiang province, one from Henan Province, one in Beijing, one in Shanghai, and one in Hainan Province.



- Of the 24 deaths for which information has been provided, ages ranged from 36 to 89 years (median 71.5 years), male to female ratio was 2:1 and 10 are reported to have had underlying medical conditions.
- Of the 5,974 confirmed cases in mainland China:
  - 1,239 cases, rate of 4.8%, have been reported as severe (not including the 132 reported deaths).
- On 28 January 2020 the WHO revised the proportion of severe cases to 20% (down from 25%).

Figure 1: Counties, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, 29 January 2020

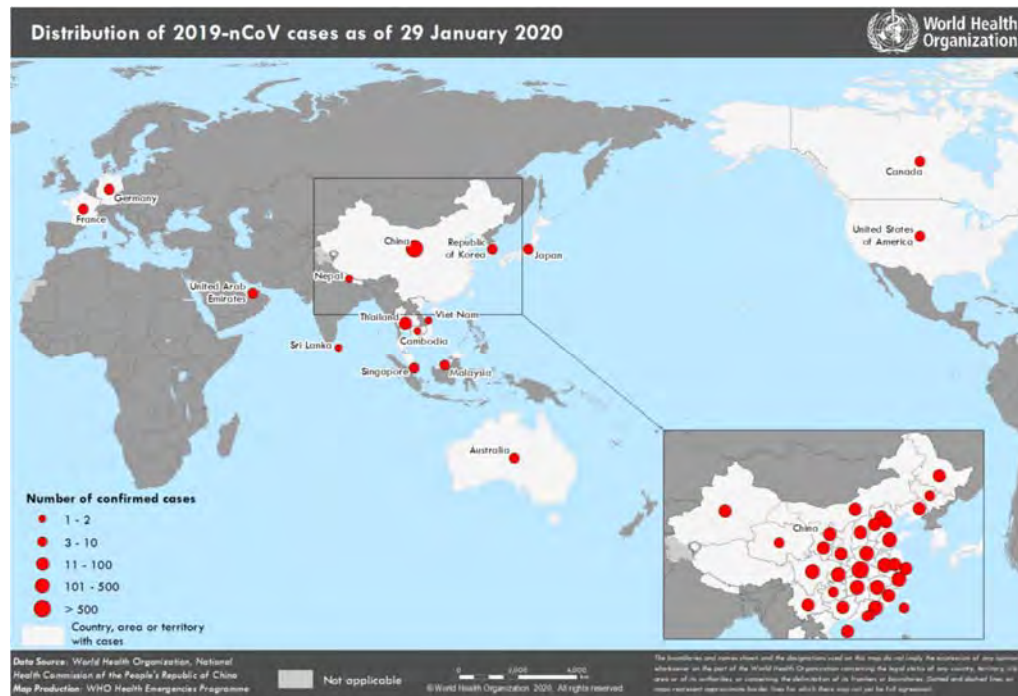
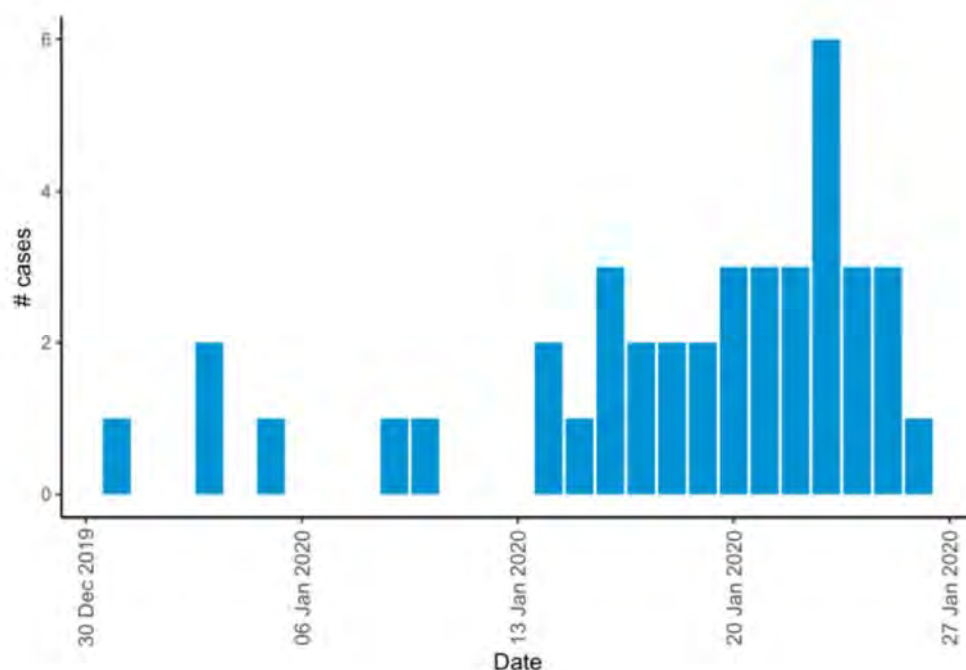


Figure 2: Epidemic curve by date of onset of 2019-nCoV cases identified of China, 29 January 2020



## World Health Organization (WHO) Advice

4. WHO's risk assessment of the situation is: **very high in China; high at the regional level; high at the global level.**
5. The Director-General of the WHO convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee would reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further. WHO has not declared a PHEIC, but there is a IHR Emergency Committee to take place at **7:30 31 January NZ Time.**
6. On 27 January 2020, the WHO updated its advice for international traffic in relation to the outbreak of 2019-nCoV. This includes advice for entry screening in countries/areas without transmission of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV that choose to perform entry screening. The current New Zealand border measures and messages align with this advice.

## Risk Assessment – Key Messages

7. The TAG meeting on 29 January 2020 assessed that the likelihood that there are one or more imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is **high**. This assessment takes into account that the reported numbers are rapidly increasing overseas, New Zealand has close transport links to China, and Chinese New Year celebrations are underway.
8. The likelihood of limited person-to-person transmission is **moderate** and the likelihood of sustained transmission, and widespread outbreaks, is **low**, although it may be **high** in some settings (eg institutions, aged care facilities etc). This assessment takes into account the evidence to date which suggests human-to-human transmission and **that there may be some transmission prior to the development of symptoms. It assumes that the timely and robust management of both cases and their contacts will limit the spread of disease.**
9. It is important to note that this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and this risk assessment may change as more information on the 2019-nCoV and its epidemiology becomes available.
10. Current estimates of the incubation period range from 2-10 days, and these estimates will be refined as more data become available. Understanding the time when infected patients may transmit the virus to others is critical for control efforts. **There is some emerging evidence that transmission may occur in the 1-2 days before the development of symptoms.**
11. The evidence to date suggests human-to-human transmission. **There is also emerging evidence that the virus may be able to be transmitted 2 days prior to the development of symptoms**
12. Ensuring effective public health measures and timely and rigorous infection and prevention control measures are in place in the management of potential / suspected imported cases detected in New Zealand, means that the likelihood of sustained spread in a community is **low**. **However, in some settings – eg institutions – the risk of an outbreak is high (similar to other infectious diseases such as influenza, gastroenteritis etc).**

## Whole of Government Response

13. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is held a Watch Group on 27 Jan for agencies with policy and operational responsibilities. The next meeting will be held on Friday 31 January 2020.
14. We are working with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials to ensure we have effective processes for determining, and responding to, health support that Pacific Island countries and territories may need, including clinical input, clinical supplies, personal protective equipment, and any requests for exit screening of travellers from New Zealand to their countries.
15. Customs convened a meeting of the Border Working Group on 27 January 2020. Border agencies discussed the use of PPE stocks and agreed to share these with border agency partners where needed, taking a wider border sector approach; agreed that we are using the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan (IPAP) as a guide and that border agencies should identify which actions are relevant in order to be informed and prepared to implement border options if requested. Ministry of Health officials will remind border health protection staff to inform local border officials of any vessel that reports ill health among the crew (or passengers). Border agency staff can then discuss with border health officials if any additional PPE or other measures are recommended. The Border Sector Working Group agreed to meet weekly for a thirty minute catch up.
16. ESR has reported that local 2019 nCoV testing should be available on schedule by next week. In the meantime, the test samples are being sent to Australia.

## New Zealand Health Sector Response

17. Health officials convened an expert advisory group (TAG) on 29 January 2020 to peer review advice for health practitioners and the primary care sector, and to provide technical expertise to the Ministry. Some smaller specialty groups are to convene to focus on PC, CL, and Infection Prevention Control.
18. Andy Simpson, our Chief Medical Officer, is convening a meeting of DHB chief medical officers this week, to discuss the 2019-nCoV outbreak and their readiness to respond to suspected and confirmed cases.
19. On 6, 10, and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions. We sent a National Health Advisory this morning advising the National Health Coordination Centre had been activated.
20. On 24 January 2020, interim guidance for all health practitioners was published on the Ministry website. We also published interim guidance for primary care. We issued a National Health Advisory to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.

21. DHBs are beginning to respond to requests for assessments of unwell people. To date no-one has met the definition of a suspected case.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

22. Currently, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
23. There are around 450,000 travellers from China to New Zealand each year, and around 400,000 of those arrive on direct flights. We expect around 50,000 travellers from China during the Chinese New Year.
24. The guidance for responding to ill travellers has been finalised and sent to public health units.
25. Public health staff met **approximately 2000 passengers on five flights** arriving at Auckland Airport and **289** passengers on **one flight** arriving at Christchurch International Airport from mainland China **yesterday. No travellers have self-identified as unwell and no-one has required nurse assessment to date.**
25. **At the border, we are currently:**
- **monitoring border measures undertaken by other countries, particularly Australia, and any recommendations from WHO**
  - **keeping border stakeholders and the tourism industry informed through border advisories and regular meetings. This includes border agency, airport and airline staff, and accommodation providers.**
  - **supporting border stakeholders to remind their staff of appropriate measures to protect from respiratory diseases (including from travellers from the northern hemisphere with flu as it is their flu season)**
  - **ensuring health advice for travellers arriving in New Zealand is displayed at international ports and airports. This includes health advice cards, posters, banners and, where available, electronic signage**
  - **supporting public health staff at Auckland and Christchurch International Airports who are meeting and providing information to traveller on flights from mainland China. These staff are not undertaking screening or clinical assessments of all arrivals at this point. A public health nurse will be available to take the temperature of any passengers who report they are not well. If the passenger's temperature is over 38 C, this will trigger the usual ill traveller response protocol.**
  - **public health staff are also available to talk to border officials and others working at the airports to answer questions about 2019-nCoV**
  - **responding to reports of ill travellers**
  - **undertaking contact tracing for casual and close contacts of confirmed cases on flights to New Zealand**
  - **undertaking contact tracing of close contacts in New Zealand of confirmed cases overseas**

## Public Information

27. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.
28. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email. The Ministry's novel coronavirus webpage has received over 25,000 views.
29. Healthline has reported that there has been a large influx of incoming calls in reference to misinformation on 2019 nCoV.
30. There has been a letter added to the Ministry of Health's website with general public health advice on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Included in the letter is information and advice for people who have recently travelled from Wuhan and the Hubei province. As well as specific advice for people who have recently travelled from China. See Figure 3 in Appendices.

## Other Country Responses

31. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health is providing us with its sitreps. The National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
32. The Department of Health web page for the 2019-nCoV outbreak, including information on the current situation, clinical symptoms, advice to travellers and personal protective measures is live and continues to be updated.
33. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. 2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.
34. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
  - *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is being provided on arrival, to all passengers on flights from mainland China to Australia. The fact sheet instructs passengers what to do if they feel unwell and what to do if they become unwell post travel. The fact sheet is in both English and Chinese (Mandarin). These fact sheets will also be made available in airports.*
  - *Bilingual messaging has been provided to airports to broadcast in terminals, and to airlines to be played prior to arrival. This messaging is also being updated for ports and is expected to be distributed in the coming days.*
  - *Digital banners are displayed in international airports and major ports to alert travellers of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they are showing symptoms or become ill.*
    - *Pull-up banners have also been distributed to international airports without electronic message board capability.*
    - *Specific fact sheets have been provided to borders workers, airlines and the cruise industry.*
    - *The Traveller with Illness Checklist has been updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers*



*The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness.*

35. **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs):** on 23 January 2020, MFAT officials met with partners of the Pacific health security group to discuss the situation with novel coronavirus in the Pacific. Should 2019-nCoV impact the Pacific, PICs are likely to need additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and support for the preparation and testing of samples. They may also need influenza vaccine for health workers who may be impacted by 2019-nCoV and possibly extra antibiotics (for secondary infections). Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu were assessed by WHO to be ineffective in treating the virus.
36. **Samoa:** as of 23 January 2020, Samoan authorities have implemented travel restrictions in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China. MFAT's Safe Travel website advises that all travelers to Samoa are required to undergo medical clearance at least three days before travelling to Samoa to confirm that they are free of any infectious diseases. All travelers from 2019 novel coronavirus affected countries must spend at least 14 days in a country free of 2019 novel coronavirus and undergo medical clearance prior to travel to Samoa. If in the event a traveler arrives within the 14 day period, health quarantine measures will be applied and deportation to the country of travel origin will be considered.

## Key Messages

## Appendices

### NHCC Contact Information: 29/01/2020

National Coordinator – Jane Kelley	<a href="mailto:NHCC_NationalCoordinator@health.govt.nz">NHCC_NationalCoordinator@health.govt.nz</a>
Response Manager - Murray Mills	<a href="mailto:NHCC_responsemanager@health.govt.nz">NHCC_responsemanager@health.govt.nz</a>
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Planning – Tara Swadi 04 816 3915	<a href="mailto:NHCC_planning@health.govt.nz">NHCC_planning@health.govt.nz</a>



**Figure 3. Letter of General Public Health Advice on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**



## **Ministry of Health general public health advice on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

**30 January 2020**

**This advice is under active review and is updated daily.**

Advice updated as of today includes:

- Information and advice for people who have recently travelled from Wuhan and the Hubei province.
- Information and advice for people who have had close contact with a confirmed coronavirus case.

Specific advice under current review includes:

- Information and advice for people who have recently travelled from other parts of China.

### **What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?**

Symptoms of 2019-nCoV are similar to a range of other illnesses such as influenza and do not necessarily mean that you have 2019-nCoV. Symptoms include fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing can be a sign of pneumonia and requires immediate medical attention. We don't yet know how long symptoms take to show after a person has been infected, but current WHO assessments suggest that it is 2-10 days.

### **Health advice**

The Ministry is taking this evolving situation seriously and is working closely with other Government agencies, DHBs and emergency management teams throughout New Zealand, and with Australia.

The World Health Organization does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers but is continuing to review the situation.

Everybody should follow the basic principles of hygiene and cough etiquette to reduce the risk of getting an acute respiratory infection or passing it onto others. This includes:

- regularly washing hands (for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap and dry thoroughly)
- covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze
- staying home if you are sick
- avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- if you feel unwell you should avoid public gatherings and events.

### **Travellers recently returned from Hubei province**

Recognising the evolving nature of the evidence and data for transmission of the coronavirus, the Ministry of Health advice for people who are at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to Wuhan or Hubei province is that they should self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei province.

This means you should avoid situations that could facilitate the transmission of the virus such as social gatherings and events where you come into contact with others in particular, child care/pre-school centres, primary and secondary schools (including staff and students), aged care, healthcare facilities, prisons, public gatherings.

### **People who have had close contact with a confirmed coronavirus case**

If have been in close contact with a confirmed novel coronavirus case you should self-isolate for 14 days. If you develop symptoms including fever, coughing and difficulty breathing you should ring Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116 or your doctor.

This means you should avoid situations that could facilitate the transmission of the virus such as social gatherings and events where you come into contact with others in particular, child care/pre-school centres, primary and secondary schools (including staff and students), aged care, healthcare facilities, prisons, public gatherings.

We are closely monitoring the development of cases outside of Hubei province and will regularly update this advice.

**What do I do if I am sick right now?**

If you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing please telephone Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116.

**Where can I get more information about 2019-nCoV?**

Visit the Ministry of Health's website at [health.govt.nz/coronavirus](https://health.govt.nz/coronavirus)

**Next Report**

The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Friday 31 January 2020.**

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**Prepared by:** Kenneth Gustafson, Senior Advisor; Emergency Management

**Approved by:** Jane Kelley, Group Manager, Public Health



## SITREP 11

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019-nCoV

Issued: **1100 hrs 31 January 2020,**

**IN CONFIDENCE**

New information in red text

Unless otherwise specified, all information is current as of **1100 hours 31 January 2020.**

#### Summary

1. Since the first reported cases in late December, an outbreak of 2019-nCoV has been on going in Mainland China with the epicentre being Hubei Province, China. There have been variable numbers being reported, but the outbreak has continued to be mainly geographically contained. **As of 14:00 30 January 2020, there have been approximately 7,834 confirmed cases and 170 deaths. Of the confirmed cases, there have been a reported 98 exported cases in 20 countries. At the IHR Emergency Committee meeting on 31 January the World Health Organization has declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).** The WHO has advised countries like New Zealand to expect imported cases. New Zealand's risk assessment is that the likelihood of one or more imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is high. The likelihood of limited person-to-person transmission is moderate and the likelihood of sustained transmission, and widespread outbreaks, is low.

#### International Outbreak Situation

2. The information about case numbers and mortality has been variable. Information from the WHO is validated but appears to be several days behind other reports. We are monitoring formal (WHO) reports and receiving reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <sup>s 6(a)</sup> and from the Australian Department of Health. We are monitoring informal reports from ProMed and other sources. These numbers also differ significantly from media reports.
3. As of 14:00 **30 January 2020**, approximately **7,834 confirmed** cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported globally:
  - **7,736** cases have been reported in mainland China in 31 provinces **and Tibet**. Of these approximately **4,586 (~60%)** have been from Hubei Province.
  - **Approximately 98** exported cases have been reported in **20 countries**: **10** in Hong Kong, **7** in Macau, **8** in Taiwan, **11** in Japan, **14** in Thailand, **7** in Malaysia, **4** in South Korea, **2** in Vietnam, **10** in Singapore, **1** in Nepal, **5** in France, **8** in Australia, **5** in the US, **3** in Canada, **1** in Cambodia, **4** in Germany, **1** in Sri Lanka, **4** in United Arab Emirates, and **1 in Finland**. **India and the Philippines have had reported cases. All had travel history to Wuhan City. Human to Human transmission confirmed in Germany, Japan, Vietnam, and USA.**
  - **Of the 170 confirmed deaths:**
    - **162** have been from Hubei province, two from Henan province, one from Hebei province, one from Heilongjiang province, one in Beijing, one in Shanghai, **one in Sichuan province**, and one in Hainan Province.

- Of the **initial** 24 deaths for which information has been provided, ages ranged from 36 to 89 years (median 71.5 years), male to female ratio was 2:1 and 10 are reported to have had underlying medical conditions.
- Of the **7,711** confirmed cases in mainland China:
  - **1,370** cases have been reported as severe (not including the **170** reported deaths).
  - Approximately **88,693** case contacts have been identified. **6,746** have been released from medical observation, and **81,947** are still under medical observation.

Figure 1: Counties, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, 30 January 2020

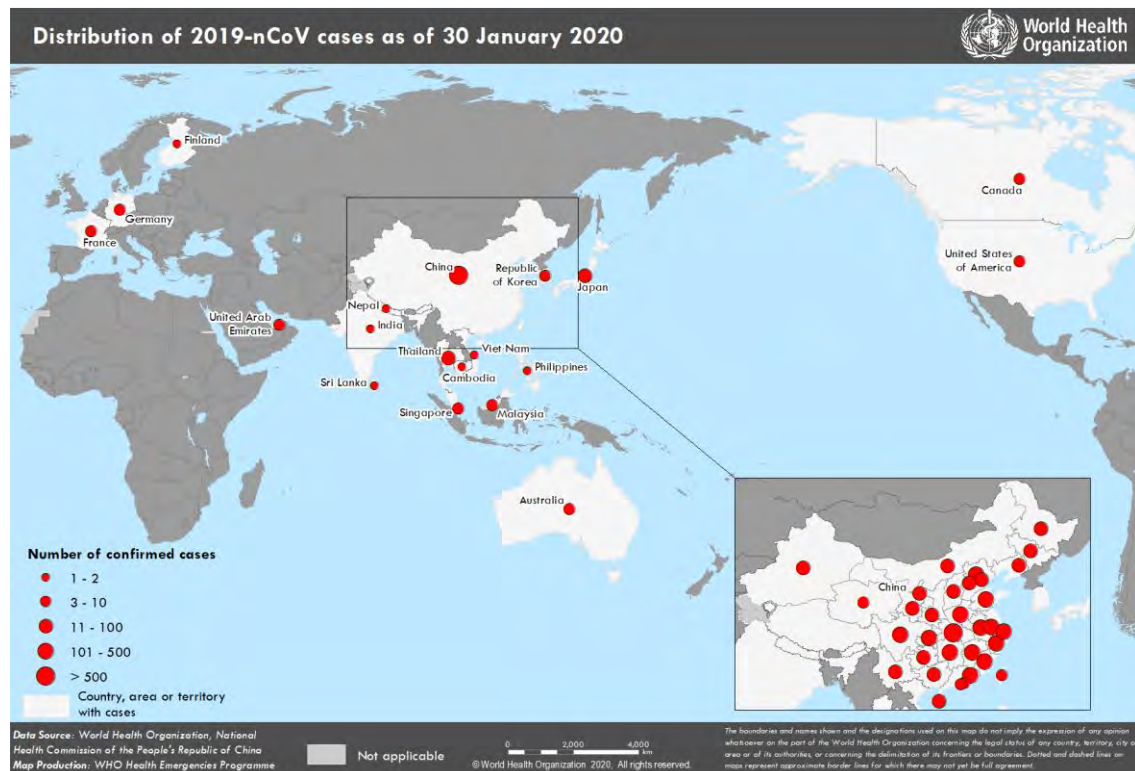
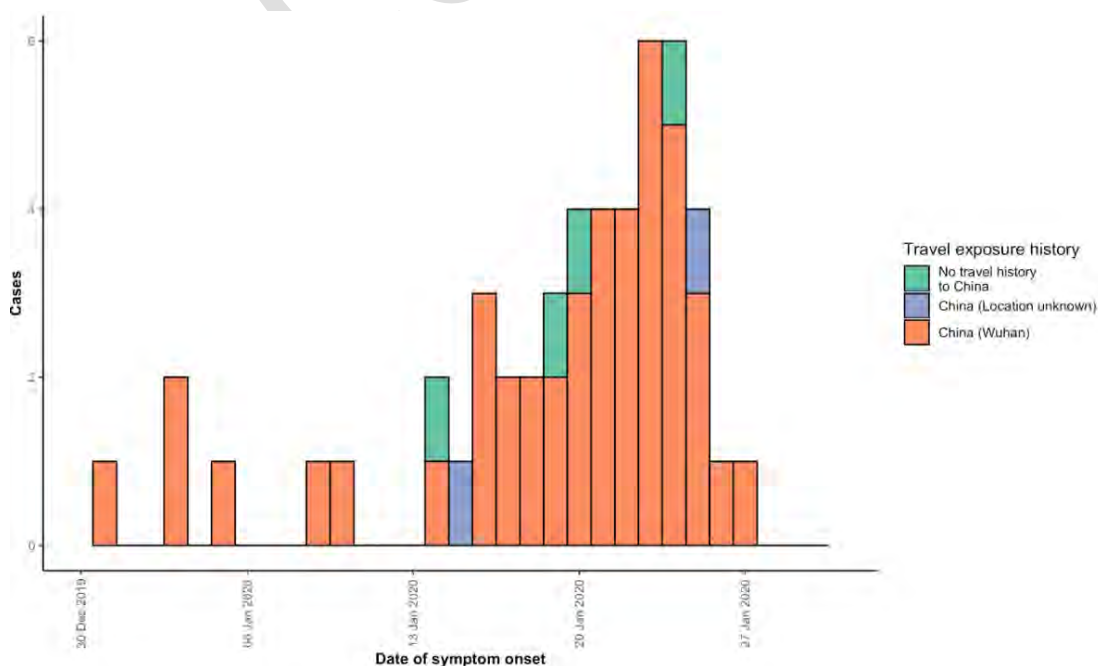


Figure 2: Epidemic curve by date of onset of 2019-nCoV cases identified of China, 30 January 2020



## World Health Organization (WHO) Advice

4. WHO's risk assessment of the situation is: **very high in China; high at the regional level; high at the global level.**
5. The Director-General of the WHO convened an IHR Emergency Committee for pneumonia due to the novel Coronavirus 2019\_nCoV. On 24 January 2020, the WHO advised that the event did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) but the Committee would reconvene in ten days to examine the situation further.
6. This morning (approx 08.30 hrs NZ time) after receiving advice from the *ad hoc* emergency committee, WHO determined that the novel Coronavirus multi-country outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of international Concern under the International Health Regulations 2005. The principal consequence of this decision is that the Director-General of WHO can formally issue temporary recommendations under the IHR 2005. The emergency committee provided specific advice to WHO, to China and to all countries, including NZ. The advice to all countries is that they "...should be prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of 2019-nCoV infection, and to share full data with WHO", "... Countries should place particular emphasis on reducing human infection, prevention of secondary transmission and international spread, and contributing to the international response through multi-sectoral communication and collaboration and active participation in increasing knowledge on the virus and the disease, as well as advancing research." "... Countries must inform WHO about any travel measures taken, as required by the IHR. Countries are cautioned against actions that promote stigma or discrimination, in line with the principles of Article 3 of the IHR."
7. New Zealand's current and planned preparedness and response activities for novel coronavirus are all consistent with the advice from WHO. The NHCC continues to monitor the domestic and international situation closely and is adjusting its actions and advice to agencies and the public regularly as the situation evolves
8. On 27 January 2020, the WHO updated its advice for international traffic in relation to the outbreak of 2019-nCoV. This includes advice for entry screening in countries/areas without transmission of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV that choose to perform entry screening. WHO advises that there are still no travel restrictions, but countries are allowed to make their own decisions. The current New Zealand border measures and messages align with this advice.

## Risk Assessment – Key Messages

9. The Emergency Committee on the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) has declared the outbreak constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.
10. ESR has confirmed that a novel coronavirus diagnostic test is now available in New Zealand. The diagnostic testing service will accept respiratory samples from all suspected cases that meet the most recent Ministry of Health case definition.
11. The public health advice on the Ministry's website has been updated to advise people who have recently been to Wuhan or Hubei province, that they should self-isolate for 14 days. This includes people who may have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with the virus.



12. The Ministry is continuing to work closely alongside DHBs and Public Health Units around the country and they will keep us up to date of any suspected cases. As of 1000 on 31 January there are no confirmed cases.
13. There has been an incorrect and misleading email circulating in New Zealand, which purports to be from the Ministry of Health. This advice has NOT come from the Ministry of Health. The Ministry has posted a tweet to alert people to this false email, and direct them to our website, where they can find our up to date advice.
14. The TAG meeting on 29 January 2020 assessed that the likelihood that there are one or more imported cases of 2019-nCoV infection in New Zealand is **high**. This assessment takes into account that the reported numbers are rapidly increasing overseas, New Zealand has close transport links to China, and Chinese New Year celebrations are underway.
15. The likelihood of limited person-to-person transmission is **moderate** and the likelihood of sustained transmission, and widespread outbreaks, is **low**, although it may be **high** in some settings (eg institutions, aged care facilities etc). This assessment takes into account the evidence to date which suggests human-to-human transmission and that there may be some transmission prior to the development of symptoms. It assumes that the timely and robust management of both cases and their contacts will limit the spread of disease.
16. Current estimates of the incubation period range from 2-10 days, and these estimates will be refined as more data become available. Understanding the time when infected patients may transmit the virus to others is critical for control efforts. There is some emerging evidence that transmission may occur in the 1-2 days before the development of symptoms.
17. Ensuring effective public health measures and timely and rigorous infection and prevention control measures are in place in the management of potential / suspected imported cases detected in New Zealand, means that the likelihood of sustained spread in a community is **low**. However, in some settings – eg institutions – the risk of an outbreak is **high** (similar to other infectious diseases such as influenza, gastroenteritis etc).

#### Whole of Government Response

18. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is held a Watch Group on 27 Jan for agencies with policy and operational responsibilities. The next meeting will be held on Friday 31 January 2020.
19. We are working with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials to ensure we have effective processes for determining, and responding to, health support that Pacific Island countries and territories may need, including clinical input, clinical supplies, personal protective equipment, and any requests for exit screening of travellers from New Zealand to their countries.
20. Customs convened a meeting of the Border Working Group on 27 January 2020. Border agencies discussed the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) stocks and agreed to share these with border agency partners where needed, taking a wider border sector approach; agreed that we are using the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan (IPAP) as a guide and that border agencies should identify which actions are relevant in order to be informed and prepared to implement border options if requested. Ministry of Health officials will remind border health protection staff to inform local border officials of any

vessel that reports ill health among the crew (or passengers). Border agency staff can then discuss with border health officials if any additional PPE or other measures are recommended. The Border Sector Working Group agreed to meet weekly for a thirty minute catch up.

### **New Zealand Health Sector Response**

21. Health officials convened an expert advisory group (TAG) on 29 January 2020 to peer review advice for health practitioners and the primary care sector, and to provide technical expertise to the Ministry. Some smaller specialty groups are to convene to focus on Primary Care, Clinical Laboratory, and Infection Prevention Control.
22. Ministry of Health Chief Medical Officer, Dr Andy Simpson, is convening a meeting of DHB chief medical officers this week to discuss the 2019-nCoV outbreak and their readiness to respond to suspected and confirmed cases.
23. On 6, 10, and 23 January 2020, we sent National Health Advisories to the health sector, including DHBs and primary care, with background information on the novel coronavirus, WHO's recommendations for respiratory infections, and advice that, given the evidence that human-to-human transmission of SARS and MERS viruses is increased in hospital settings, a cautious approach with patients with symptoms of pneumonia and a history of travel to Wuhan is advised in these settings: contact and airborne precautions should be implemented in addition to standard precautions. We sent a National Health Advisory this morning advising the National Health Coordination Centre had been activated.
24. On 24 January 2020, interim guidance for all health practitioners was published on the Ministry website. We also published interim guidance for primary care. We issued a National Health Advisory to alert health practitioners to its availability and to provide a general update on the outbreak.
25. DHBs are beginning to respond to requests for assessments of unwell people. To date no-one has met the definition of a suspected case.

### **New Zealand Border Response**

26. Currently, there are no travel restrictions or other border measures in place at the New Zealand border in relation to this event. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not currently recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the current information. This is the northern hemisphere influenza season and so we expect to see increased numbers of travellers from the northern hemisphere with influenza-like illnesses.
27. There are around 450,000 travellers from China to New Zealand each year, and around 400,000 of those arrive on direct flights. We expect around 50,000 travellers from China during the Chinese New Year.
28. The guidance for responding to ill travellers has been finalised and sent to public health units.
29. Public health staff met approximately 2000 passengers on five flights arriving at Auckland Airport and 289 passengers on one flight arriving at Christchurch International Airport

from mainland China yesterday. No travellers have self-identified as unwell and no-one has required nurse assessment to date.

25. At the border, we are currently:

- monitoring border measures undertaken by other countries, particularly Australia, and any recommendations from WHO
- keeping border stakeholders and the tourism industry informed through border advisories and regular meetings. This includes border agency, airport and airline staff, and accommodation providers.
- supporting border stakeholders to remind their staff of appropriate measures to protect from respiratory diseases (including from travellers from the northern hemisphere with flu as it is their flu season)
- ensuring health advice for travellers arriving in New Zealand is displayed at international ports and airports. This includes health advice cards, posters, banners and, where available, electronic signage
- supporting public health staff at Auckland and Christchurch International Airports who are meeting and providing information to traveller on flights from mainland China. These staff are not undertaking screening or clinical assessments of all arrivals at this point. A public health nurse will be available to take the temperature of any passengers who report they are not well. If the passenger's temperature is over 38 C, this will trigger the usual ill traveller response protocol.
- public health staff are also available to talk to border officials and others working at the airports to answer questions about 2019-nCoV
- responding to reports of ill travellers
- undertaking contact tracing for casual and close contacts of confirmed cases on flights to New Zealand
- undertaking contact tracing of close contacts in New Zealand of confirmed cases overseas

## Public Information

27. A web page has been established on the Ministry's website at <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov> so we can direct the public and journalists to this information. Key messages, and responses to media and public queries are being collated to develop FAQs for the web page.
28. The Ministry's media team are responding to a number of queries from print and television media. Queries from the public are coming to the Ministry's [info@health.govt.nz](mailto:info@health.govt.nz) email. The Ministry's novel coronavirus webpage has received over 25,000 views.
29. The Ministry of Health's general public health advice on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been added to the website. Included is information and advice for people who have recently travelled from Wuhan and the Hubei province. As well as specific advice for people who have recently travelled from China. See Figure 3 in Appendix.

## Other Country Responses

30. **Australia:** The Australian Department of Health is providing us with its sitreps. The National Incident Room (NIR) has been activated in response to this outbreak. On 23 January 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
31. The Department of Health web page for the 2019-nCoV outbreak, including information on the current situation, clinical symptoms, advice to travellers and personal protective measures is live and continues to be updated.

32. Four laboratories in Australia can test for 2019-nCoV. Laboratories are working up the WHO method for laboratory testing. 2019-nCoV public health laboratory testing guidelines have been published on the Department of Health website.
33. Australia's border response is currently consistent with that of New Zealand. The sitrep advised that *the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, has enhanced the existing ill traveller screening process to ensure it targets any potential risk from this new virus.*
- *A factsheet on 2019-nCoV is being provided on arrival, to all passengers on flights from mainland China to Australia. The fact sheet instructs passengers what to do if they feel unwell and what to do if they become unwell post travel. The fact sheet is in both English and Chinese (Mandarin). These fact sheets will also be made available in airports.*
  - *Bilingual messaging has been provided to airports to broadcast in terminals, and to airlines to be played prior to arrival. This messaging is also being updated for ports and is expected to be distributed in the coming days.*
  - *Digital banners are displayed in international airports and major ports to alert travellers of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and actions to take if they are showing symptoms or become ill.*
    - *Pull-up banners have also been distributed to international airports without electronic message board capability.*
    - *Specific fact sheets have been provided to border workers, airlines and the cruise industry.*
    - *The Traveller with Illness Checklist has been updated in consultation with Chief Human Biosecurity Officers*
- The Department does not currently recommend mass screening of passengers at airports, including thermal scanning, due to the limited evidence of effectiveness.*
34. **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs):** on 23 January 2020, MFAT officials met with partners of the Pacific health security group to discuss the situation with novel coronavirus in the Pacific. Should 2019-nCoV impact the Pacific, PICs are likely to need additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and support for the preparation and testing of samples. They may also need influenza vaccine for health workers who may be impacted by 2019-nCoV and possibly extra antibiotics (for secondary infections). Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu were assessed by WHO to be ineffective in treating the virus.
35. **Samoa:** as of 23 January 2020, Samoan authorities have implemented travel restrictions in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China. MFAT's Safe Travel website advises that all travelers to Samoa are required to undergo medical clearance at least three days before travelling to Samoa to confirm that they are free of any infectious diseases. All travelers from 2019 novel coronavirus affected countries must spend at least 14 days in a country free of 2019 novel coronavirus and undergo medical clearance prior to travel to Samoa. If in the event a traveler arrives within the 14 day period, health quarantine measures will be applied and deportation to the country of travel origin will be considered.

## Appendix

### NHCC Contact Information: 31/01/2020

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Response Manager	<a href="mailto:NHCC_responsemanager@health.govt.nz">NHCC_responsemanager@health.govt.nz</a>
Operations(Border) 04 816 3431	<a href="mailto:NHCC_opsborder@health.govt.nz">NHCC_opsborder@health.govt.nz</a>
Operations 04 816 3484	<a href="mailto:NHCC_operations@health.govt.nz">NHCC_operations@health.govt.nz</a>
Logistics 04 816 2378	<a href="mailto:NHCC_InternalLog@health.govt.nz">NHCC_InternalLog@health.govt.nz</a>
PIM 04 816 3993	<a href="mailto:NHCC_PIMManger@health.govt.nz">NHCC_PIMManger@health.govt.nz</a>
Intelligence 04 816 3909	<a href="mailto:NHCC_Intelligence@health.govt.nz">NHCC_Intelligence@health.govt.nz</a>
Planning 04 816 3915	<a href="mailto:NHCC_planning@health.govt.nz">NHCC_planning@health.govt.nz</a>

**Figure 3. Ministry of Health General Public Health Advice on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**



### Ministry of Health general public health advice on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

**30 January 2020**

**This advice is under active review and is updated daily.**

Advice updated as of today includes:

- Information and advice for people who have recently travelled from Wuhan and the Hubei province.
- Information and advice for people who have had close contact with a confirmed coronavirus case.

Specific advice under current review includes:

- Information and advice for people who have recently travelled from other parts of China.

#### What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Symptoms of 2019-nCoV are similar to a range of other illnesses such as influenza and do not necessarily mean that you have 2019-nCoV. Symptoms include fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing can be a sign of pneumonia and requires immediate medical attention. We don't yet know how long symptoms take to show after a person has been infected, but current WHO assessments suggest that it is 2-10 days.

#### Health advice

The Ministry is taking this evolving situation seriously and is working closely with other Government agencies, DHBs and emergency management teams throughout New Zealand, and with Australia.

The World Health Organization does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers but is continuing to review the situation.

Everybody should follow the basic principles of hygiene and cough etiquette to reduce the risk of getting an acute respiratory infection or passing it onto others. This includes:

- regularly washing hands (for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap and dry thoroughly)
- covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze
- staying home if you are sick
- avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- if you feel unwell you should avoid public gatherings and events.

### **Travellers recently returned from Hubei province**

Recognising the evolving nature of the evidence and data for transmission of the coronavirus, the Ministry of Health advice for people who are at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to Wuhan or Hubei province is that they should self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei province.

This means you should avoid situations that could facilitate the transmission of the virus such as social gatherings and events where you come into contact with others in particular, child care/pre-school centres, primary and secondary schools (including staff and students), aged care, healthcare facilities, prisons, public gatherings.

### **People who have had close contact with a confirmed coronavirus case**

If have been in close contact with a confirmed novel coronavirus case you should self-isolate for 14 days. If you develop symptoms including fever, coughing and difficulty breathing you should ring Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116 or your doctor.

This means you should avoid situations that could facilitate the transmission of the virus such as social gatherings and events where you come into contact with others in particular, child care/pre-school centres, primary and secondary schools (including staff and students), aged care, healthcare facilities, prisons, public gatherings.

We are closely monitoring the development of cases outside of Hubei province and will regularly update this advice.

### **What do I do if I am sick right now?**

If you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing please telephone Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116.

### **Where can I get more information about 2019-nCoV?**

Visit the Ministry of Health's website at [health.govt.nz/coronavirus](https://health.govt.nz/coronavirus)

### **Next Report**

The next report will be a Sitrep at **1100 hrs on Saturday 1 February 2020.**

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**Prepared by:** Kenneth Gustafson, NHCC Intelligence

**Not yet....Approved by:** Jane Kelley, NHCC National Coordinator