



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & PREVENTION

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للصحة العامة



حكومة دبي  
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة الصحة بدبي  
DUBAI HEALTH AUTHORITY

دائرة الصحة  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



# Interim Guide to Novel Coronavirus Infection COVID-19

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## **Epidemiology**

Novel (new) Coronavirus (nCoV-2019) is a new strain of coronavirus that was first identified in a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Majority of cases are reported in Hubei province. Cases are also reported in other provinces of China. 28 countries beside China have reported cases. Globally 78811 cases were reported to date with 2462 associated death. (3% case fatality)

## **Mode of transmission**

COVID-19 virus is spreading through droplet infection and through exposure to contaminated common surfaces. Information suggests that the COVID-19 started as a zoonotic spillover and growing evidence is confirming human-to-human transmission. Cases were reported among healthcare workers taking care of COVID-19 cases.

## **Clinical Features**

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

## **Treatment**

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

## **Surveillance Case Definition (appendix 1)**

**Suspected nCoV-2019 is defined as:**



1. A person with acute respiratory illness (cough and/or shortness of breath with or without fever) **and** any of the following:
  - A history of travel to countries where local transmission is observed, **China**, or **South Korea**, **Japan** or **Iran**, or **Singapore**, or **Italy** in the last **28** days prior to symptoms onset.
  - A close physical contact\* in the past 28 days with a confirmed case of nCoV-2019 infection.
2. Severe Acute Respiratory Illness SARI cases that require admission to hospital with no other lab result that explains illness. Without exposure as defined above

**Close contact is defined as:**

- Health care associated exposure, including providing direct care for 2019-nCoV patients, working with health care workers infected with 2019-nCoV, visiting patients or staying in the same close environment of a 2019-nCoV patient.
- Working together in close proximity or sharing the same classroom environment with a 2019-nCoV patient
- traveling together with 2019-nCoV patient in any kind of conveyance
- Living in the same household as a 2019-nCoV patient
- living in the same household as a 2019-nCoV patient

**Confirmed 2019-nCoV is defined as:**

A Confirmed case is defined as a suspected case with laboratory confirmation of nCoV-2019 infection.



## **Laboratory diagnosis:**

At this stage, the laboratory testing for COVID-19 is performed at the sub national laboratories and positive cases are confirmed by the SKMC laboratory Abu Dhabi

Testing is performed to confirm a clinically suspected case and to screen contacts.

## **Infection control in Healthcare Facilities:**

The mode of transmission of 2019-nCoV remains unknown. In general, the following are recommended:

1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Triage at the entry point of the healthcare facility, for early identification of all patients with acute respiratory illness
3. Practice contact and droplet precautions (wear a fit-tested N95 mask, eye protection i.e. goggles or a face shield, gloves and impermeable apron. while handling 2019-nCoV patient (suspected/ confirmed).
4. Practice additional precautions for aerosol-generating procedures as (bronchoscopy, intubation, suction, nebulization, CPR, autopsy).

## **Samples collection and transport**

- It is advised that lower respiratory specimens such as sputum, endotracheal aspirate, or Broncho alveolar lavage be used when possible. If patients do not have signs or symptoms of lower respiratory tract infection or lower tract specimens are not possible or



clinically indicated, nasopharyngeal specimens should be collected (similar to MERS sample collection).

- Arrangement for samples transport is done with the medical district and preventive medicine.

### **Measures at Points of Entry (PoE):**

Health control centers at PoE are required to screen travelers arriving from China for fever, and refer suspected cases (as defined above) immediately to hospitals and health facilities that have been previously arranged with.

The World Health Organization does not recommend any additional health measures for travelers to and from the China. In the event that symptoms of a respiratory infection appear before, during or after travel, the traveler is advised to seek medical care and sharing travel-related information with the medical service provider.

**In order to ensure its ability to deal with suspected cases, it is required of all health control centers in the PoE assure the following:**

1. Policies, procedures and supplies (including personal protection devices) and workers trained to assess and deal with suspected cases
2. Means for the exchange of information between the PoE operators and the health control centers in the ports, and between the health control centers in the ports and the program of the International Health Regulations at the Ministry.
3. Existing coordination to transfer suspected cases to appropriate health facilities for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment provision.



4. A functional public health emergency plan for the PoE.
5. Procedures and supplies needed to disinfect and sterilize sites and tools that are expected to be contaminated during the management of suspected cases among travelers.
6. Health awareness facilities suitable for travelers, transport operators and operators working at the port.
7. In the event of a notification of a suspected case traveling on a ship or a plane, the operator of the means of transportation should provide the required information. The passenger identification form should be completed when there is a suspected case on the plane, and include contact information with the passenger.

## Reporting and Response

nCoV-2019 is an emerging pathogen and suspected cases must be reported immediately through:

By calling the preventive medicine center in the district and report them

## Tips for travelers heading to areas where the 2019-nCoV was reported:

1. Avoid contact with animals (live or dead), animal products or visiting animal markets.
2. Avoid contact with people with respiratory symptoms.
3. If symptoms of a respiratory infection appear, you should:
  - Stay at home and avoid contacting with others.
  - Visiting the hospital and seek medical advice and provide them with travel history.



- Avoid traveling while having symptoms.
- Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean hands by washing them for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or with alcohol sterilizers.

**Appendix#1: Case Definition for suspected Covid-19 coronavirus  
Case and Assessment**

