

Novel Coronavirus identified Wuhan City, China

Information for Clinicians and NSW Emergency Departments

Please distribute this information to all staff



Health

- 1. Consider novel coronavirus infection in patients with fever and respiratory symptoms and travel to Wuhan, China in the 14 days before illness onset**
- 2. Investigate and manage patient for respiratory illness. Collect upper respiratory tract viral swabs, or nasopharyngeal aspirate using standard and airborne transmission precautions**
- 3. Notify your local Public Health Unit**

Current situation:

- China has reported a cluster of viral pneumonia with links to a large wholesale fish and live animal market in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. This market was closed on 1 January 2020.
- As of January 5, 2020 there have been 59 cases with pneumonia; the last case was reported to have developed symptoms on 29 December.
- No deaths have been reported.
- Reports indicate no evidence of human to human transmission.
- Health authorities in China are monitoring more than 150 close contacts for illness. It is likely that the cause of this cluster is a novel coronavirus. Local authorities have reported negative laboratory results for seasonal influenza, avian influenza, adenovirus, and two specific coronaviruses known to cause respiratory illness (severe acute respiratory syndrome [SARS] and Middle East respiratory syndrome [MERS]).

Who is at risk:

- A person with travel from Wuhan City, China in the 14 days before illness onset AND
- an illness fever and respiratory symptoms/signs AND
- illness not explained by any other infection or aetiology.

For a patient who meets these criteria:

- Place a surgical mask on the patient
- Place in a single room with negative pressure air-handling (if available)
- Use standard, contact and airborne transmission precautions, including a P2 (N95) mask, disposable gown, gloves, and eye protection when entering a patient care area
- Collect combined nose and throat swabs, or nasopharyngeal swabs. Patients with severe respiratory disease also should have lower respiratory tract specimens collected
- Undertake testing in your hospital for alternative causes, in particular for respiratory viruses using multiplex PCR if available
- Contact your local Public Health Unit promptly on **1300 066 055** for a joint risk assessment
- After discussion with the public health unit and if no other pathogen is detected, testing for coronaviruses can be organised with ICPMR, Westmead Hospital

Clinical information

<https://www.who.int/china/news/detail/09-01-2020-who-statement-regarding-cluster-of-pneumonia-cases-in-wuhan-china>

Consumer information

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/pneumonia-china>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. E. Selvey'.

Dr Christine Selvey

A/Director, Communicable Diseases, Health Protection NSW
10 January 2020

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