

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (51) in DH SEB CD/8/93/1

14 February, 2013

Dear Doctor,

**Two Confirmed Cases of Severe Respiratory Disease associated with
Novel Coronavirus in the United Kingdom**

Further to our letter to you dated 21 January, 2013, we would like to inform you that the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported two more cases of NCoV infection in the United Kingdom (UK). As of 13 February, a total of 11 confirmed cases of human infection with NCoV have been notified to WHO, with five deaths since April 2012.

According to WHO, the UK reported the 10th confirmed case with infection of NCoV in a UK resident on 11 February 2013. He developed symptoms of illness on 26 January 2013. Laboratory investigations on respiratory specimens revealed both an Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 infection and a confirmed NCoV infection. He is now hospitalized in intensive care unit in the UK. Preliminary investigation reveals that the patient had a history of travel to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. On 13 February 2013, UK informed WHO another confirmed case of infection with NCoV (the 11th case). The patient is also a UK resident and a relative of the 10th case. This case does not have any recent travel history outside the UK and is currently hospitalized in an intensive care unit. It is understood that this patient has pre-existing medical conditions that may have increased susceptibility to respiratory infections. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) of the UK is following up on all close contacts (family and healthcare workers) who may have been exposed to either of these two new confirmed cases.



According to WHO, although the latest case has no recent travel history and is suggestive of person-to-person transmission, on the basis of current evidence, the risk of sustained person-to-person transmission appears to be very low.

Based on the current situation and available information, WHO encourages all Member States to continue their surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections and to carefully review any unusual patterns. Testing for the new coronavirus should be considered in patients with unexplained pneumonias, or in patients with unexplained severe, progressive or complicated respiratory illness not responding to treatment. WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry with regard to this event nor does it recommend that any travel or trade restrictions be applied.

Although no confirmed cases of NCoV infection were recorded in Hong Kong as of today, medical practitioners are reminded to notify the Department of Health any suspected cases of severe respiratory disease associated with novel coronavirus, who reside in or have history of travel to the Arabian Peninsula or neighboring countries and fulfilling the reporting criteria (<https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line. Please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 outside office hour for prompt investigation.

Apart from the statutory notification of severe respiratory disease associated with novel coronavirus as mentioned above, please also consider testing for novel coronavirus for unexplained pneumonia after exclusion of common causative agents, regardless of the travel history. Laboratory testing of novel coronavirus is available in Public Health Laboratory Centre (PHLC) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) and please contact the Virology Division of PHLC for necessary arrangement.

Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health