

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (23) in DH SEB CD/9/12/1 Pt.9

24 September 2012

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Human Cases of Novel Coronavirus Infection

We would like to alert you that the World Health Organization (WHO) reported two human cases of novel coronavirus infection as of 23 September 2012. One had travelled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Qatar while the other one was a Saudi national.

According to WHO, a 49 year-old male Qatari national, with travel history to the KSA prior to onset of illness, developed symptoms on 3 September 2012. On 7 September, he was admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) in Doha, Qatar. On 11 September, he was transferred to the United Kingdom (UK) by air ambulance from Qatar. Laboratory testing confirmed the presence of a novel coronavirus. The patient is currently being managed in strict respiratory isolation in UK. The sequencing of the virus isolate from this patient was compared with the isolate from another fatal case in a 60 year-old male, Saudi national, reported earlier in September. This comparison indicated 99.5% identity, with one nucleotide mismatch over the regions compared. According to UK Health Protection Agency (HPA), both patients presented with acute, serious respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. The incubation period is currently considered to be up to seven days by the HPA.

Given that this is a novel coronavirus, WHO is currently in the process of obtaining further information to determine the public health implications of the two confirmed cases. To date, no additional confirmed case was reported worldwide. With respect to current findings, WHO does not impose any international travel or trade restrictions.



Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can be found in humans and animals. In humans, coronaviruses can cause mild illness like common cold as well as severe illness like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Coronaviruses are typically spread like other respiratory infections

such as influenza. This infection is therefore likely to be passed from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes, though much is unknown at this stage.

In view of the emergence of a novel coronavirus and the severity of illness in the two confirmed cases, the Centre of Health Protection of the Department of Health will collaborate with the Hospital Authority and private hospitals to enhance surveillance for any suspected case of novel coronavirus infection. Please report patients who satisfy the following criteria to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the Centre for Health Protection (Fax number: 2477 2770) by fax of the completed form (Appendix). Please also contact CENO at Tel: 24772772 during office hours or the Medical Control Officer (MCO) at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 outside office hours when reporting any suspected case.

Reporting Criteria

*Any patient who developed pneumonia or died of unexplained respiratory illness; **AND**
had history of travel to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or Qatar within 7 days prior to symptom onset*

Please be reminded any suspected cases of novel coronavirus infection should be put under strict isolation (presumably a negative pressure room). All staff who will have contact with any suspected case are advised to wear full protective equipment.

Thank you once again for your continuous support in combating infectious disease in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. S K Chuang)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

Please fax your reply before 12 noon

Reporting of Patients for Enhanced surveillance on Novel Coronavirus Infection

To: Director of Health

Fax No. : 2477 2770 (Central Notification Office)

Daily Reply Slip on _____ (Please insert date)
from _____ (Name of institution)

1. The number of new cases reported to the Centre for Health Protection in the past 24 hours is: _____

(For new cases, please complete appendix 2)

2. The total number of cases reported so far is: _____

3. The following patients' clinical conditions have changed (please use additional sheets if necessary):

Name	Sex	Age	Any Change of Condition with date (e.g. death or discharge)

Contact person:

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Position: _____

Note 1

Please also call Medical Control Officer at 71163300 a/c 9179 if outside office hour.

Note 2

Please return even if no case is recorded.

Reporting of Patients for the Enhanced Surveillance on Novel Coronavirus Infection

New Cases

For patients who fulfill the reporting criteria, this form should be faxed to 2477 2770 (Central Notification Office)

Patient particulars

Name in English (please affix patient gum label if applicable)	
Name in Chinese	
Sex/ Age	
HKID / Passport No.	
Home address	
Patient / guardian contact phone number	
Date of admission	
Ward/ Bed no.	

Clinical information

Onset date, (pleases specify symptoms)	
Diagnosis	
Pneumonic change on CXR (Please provide details)	
Past health	
Place of travel to affected areas within 7 days of onset	
Condition of patient (Stable/satisfactory/poor/critical)	
Any laboratory test results, please specify	
Specimen sent for investigation (Yes/No, please specify specimen type and place sent for investigation)	

Attending physician

Name : _____ Tel : _____

Contact person

Name : _____ Tel : _____
Position _____ Hospital : _____

Note 1

Case definition

Any patient who developed pneumonia or died of unexplained respiratory illness AND had history of travel to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or Qatar within 7 days prior to symptom onset

Note 2

Appendix 1 should be faxed to CENO for any update on the information.