

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (7) in DH SEB CD/8/93/1 Pt.2

13 May, 2013

Dear Medical Superintendent,

**Latest Situation on Severe Respiratory Disease associated
with Novel Coronavirus**

Further to our letter to you dated 6 May 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on Severe Respiratory Disease associated with Novel Coronavirus (NCoV).

As of 12 May, a total of 34 confirmed cases of human infection with NCoV have been reported worldwide, including 24 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) (including 15 deaths), two from Qatar, two death cases from Jordan, three from the United Kingdom (UK) (including two deaths), two from France and one death case from the United Arab Emirates. Of these 34 cases, most patients were male (81%; 32 of 34 cases with sex reported) with age range from 24 to 94 years (median 56 years). The first case had onset of illness in late March or early April 2012; whereas the most recent case reported had onset on 1 May 2013. Most patients presented with severe acute respiratory disease requiring hospitalization and eventually required mechanical ventilation or other advanced respiratory support. Among these 34 cases, 20 were fatal (case fatality rate = 59%).

Three clusters among close contacts were recorded (two in KSA in October 2012 and February 2013 and one in UK in February 2013), each cluster affected two to three persons. Separately, three clusters involved health care facilities were also identified, including a retrospectively identified cluster in Jordan in which occurred in April 2012, a cluster in KSA that affected 15 persons and the latest cluster in France that affected two persons so far. These outbreaks illustrated the potential of NCoV to spread through health care facilities and close contacts. So far, there is no evidence that this virus has the capacity to sustain generalized transmission in communities. The outbreak in the health care facility in KSA suggested that patients with multiple comorbidities in health care facilities may have had increased susceptibility to infection or severe disease.



At present, the reservoir, mode of transmission and the extent of infection in the community are still being investigated by the World Health Organization and relevant health authorities.

In view of the recent clusters occurred in health care facilities, health care workers and hospitals are reminded to maintain vigilance against NCoV infection and adhere to strict infection control practices when handling suspected cases.

Medical practitioners are reminded to notify the Department of Health any suspected cases of Severe Respiratory Disease associated with NCoV, fulfilling the reporting criteria (<https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the Centre for Health Protection (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 NCoV as mentioned above, please also consider testing for NCoV for unexplained pneumonia after exclusion of common causative agents, regardless of the travel history. Laboratory testing of NCoV is available in Public Health Laboratory Centre (PHLC) of 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