

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (14) in DH CDB/9/12/6 Pt. 2

January 16, 2020

Dear Medical Superintendent,

**A Case of Novel Coronavirus Infection in Japan and
Revised Reporting Criteria**

We write to inform you of a case of novel coronavirus infection reported by the health authority of Japan, and the revised reporting criteria of "Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent".

According to information from the health authority of Japan, the case involved a male patient in his thirties who is living in Kanagawa, Japan. The patient, who had earlier travelled to Wuhan, Hubei Province (湖北省武漢市), developed fever on January 3 and returned to Japan on January 6 and sought medical attention on the same day. He was admitted to a local hospital on January 10 and was discharged on January 15. He was tested positive for the novel coronavirus on January 15. According to the patient, he did not visit the "Hua Nan Seafood Market" (華南海鮮城) in Wuhan but had contact with a patient with pneumonia while he was in Wuhan.

In view of the latest situation and risk assessment, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health will further enhance surveillance and revise the reporting criteria of "Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent" as follows:

- ***An individual with fever and acute respiratory illness, or pneumonia;
AND***
- ***who had either one of the following within 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms:***
 - (a) visited Wuhan (regardless of whether the individual had visited wet markets or seafood markets there); OR***
 - (b) visited a medical hospital in Mainland China; OR***
 - (c) had close contact with a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus while that patient was symptomatic.***



Please refer to the **Appendix** for the revised case definition of “Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent”. It is also available on website of the Central Notification Office (“CENO On-line”) (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html). Please report cases fulfilling the reporting criteria to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line. Private doctors are reminded to call the Medical Control Officer (MCO) of DH at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 immediately when reporting any case. The CHP will make arrangement to transfer the patient to a public hospital by ambulance for isolation, testing and treatment.

The CHP will continue to maintain its liaison with the World Health Organization, the National Health Commission and relevant overseas health authorities, and closely monitor the situation for risk assessment. The reporting criteria will be adjusted in a timely manner according to the prevailing situation.

In addition, you are advised to **carry out temperature screening for patients/clients/visitors upon their arrival at your hospital/clinic**. Those with fever and respiratory symptoms should be advised to wear a surgical mask.

Please draw the attention of the healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution/ working with you to the above. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious disease in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'SK Chuang', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

Appendix

Case definition

Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent
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Clinical Description

According to announcements from the health authorities of Mainland China, a number of pneumonia cases related to the wholesale market named “華南海鮮城 (華南海鮮批發市場)” in Wuhan have been identified since December 2019 in Wuhan of Hubei Province (湖北省武漢市), China. Symptoms were mainly fever while a few had presented with shortness of breath. The disease was subsequently found to be associated with a novel coronavirus.

Reporting Criteria

An individual fulfilling the following should be reported to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) for further investigation:

- Presented with fever and acute respiratory illness, or with pneumonia; AND
- Either one of the following conditions within 14 days before onset of symptom:
 1. With travel history to Wuhan (irrespective of any exposure to wet market or seafood market); OR
 2. Visited a medical hospital in Mainland China; OR
 3. Had close contact with a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus while that patient was symptomatic.

Laboratory Criteria

Detection of nucleic acid of the novel coronavirus in a clinical specimen.

(The Mainland health authorities have preliminarily determined that the disease is caused by a novel coronavirus. The CHP is developing specific tests based on the information of the genetic sequences. The laboratory criteria will be updated when necessary.)

Case Classification

Suspected case

A case that fulfils the reporting criteria.

Probable case

A case that:

- fulfils the reporting criteria; **AND**
- has pneumonia confirmed by chest X-ray; **AND**
- has **either** one of the following: (i) exposure to wet market in Wuhan, **or** (ii) visited a medical hospital in Wuhan; **or** (iii) had close contact with a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus.

Confirmed case

A clinically compatible case that fulfils the laboratory criteria.