

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (3) in DH CDB/9/12/6 Pt.3

January 22, 2020

Dear Manager / Person-in-charge,

**A Highly Suspected Case of Novel Coronavirus Infection
and a New Guideline**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) writes to inform you on a highly suspected case of novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection and the latest situation of nCoV infection in Mainland, Macao and the United States. You are urged to heighten vigilance and remind staff and residents to maintain strict personal, food and environmental hygiene both locally and when travelling abroad during the Chinese New Year holidays.

The highly suspected case involved a 39-year-old male patient who lived in Wuhan. He had fever and blocked nose since January 21, 2020. He travelled from Wuhan to Shenzhen and then from Shenzhen to Hong Kong by High Speed Rail yesterday. He was noted to have fever at Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong West Kowloon Rail Station by staff of Port Health Division of DH, and was sent to hospital for isolation and treatment immediately. Preliminary testing of his respiratory specimen was positive for nCoV.

According to the notification from the National Health Commission (NHC) on January 22, 2020, there were an addition of 149 cases of nCoV infection reported (as of January 21, 24:00), and the cumulative number of nCoV infections in the Mainland was 440, including 102 cases in serious condition and nine deaths (all from Hubei Province). Moreover, CHP is closely monitoring the first imported case of nCoV infection from Wuhan reported by Macao and the United States. Information on the number of cases reported in countries/areas is available on the designated webpage: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics_of_the_cases_novel_coronavirus_infection_en.pdf.



In view of the latest situation, institutions/organisations are reminded to maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene. Staff and residents should avoid unnecessary travel to Wuhan of Hubei Province. If it is unavoidable to travel to Wuhan, they should put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong. Daily screening of body temperature of all staff, visitors and clients should be enhanced and continued.

Health advice to residential care homes for the elderly or persons with disabilities for the prevention of severe respiratory disease associated with a novel infectious agent (Interim) issued by the CHP can be accessed via this link:

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice_to_rche_rchd_on_prevention_of_nid_eng.pdf.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, please kindly remind your staff, visitors and clients to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene:

- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a liter of water into each drain outlet (U-traps) to ensure environmental hygiene.
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- Avoid unnecessary travel to Wuhan of Hubei Province. If it is unavoidable to travel to Wuhan, put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong.
- Avoid close contact with persons with fever or respiratory symptoms in countries/areas with possible community transmission of novel coronavirus infection. If it is unavoidable to come into contact with

them, put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong.

- Avoid visiting hospitals. If it is necessary to visit a hospital, put on a surgical mask and observe strict personal and hand hygiene.
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections.
- Avoid touching animals (including game), poultry / birds or their droppings.
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.
- Do not consume game meat and do not patronise food premises where game meat is served.
- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consumption of raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled.
- If feeling unwell when outside Hong Kong, especially if experiencing a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once.
- After returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if experiencing a fever or other symptoms, take the initiative to inform the doctor of any recent travel history and any exposure to animals, and wear a surgical mask to help prevent spread of the disease.

Please draw the attention of the staff, visitors and clients in your institutions/organisations to the above. Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'SK Chuang', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health