

# Novel corona virus (nCoV)

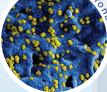
WHO Myanmar newsletter special, 24 January 2020

#### Update

- 7 Jan 2020, Chinese authorities identified a new type of virus - novel corona virus (nCoV)in Wuhan city, Hubei province, as the cause for a cluster of pneumonia cases. Most of these patients had visited the Huanan wholesale sea food market in the city.
- 13 Jan 2020, Thai authorities reported the first imported case of laboratoryconfirmed novel corona virus, a Chinese tourist from Wuhan city.
- **15 Jan 2020**, Japanese authorities reported an imported case of laboratory-confirmed novel corona virus from Wuhan city.
- **17 Jan 2020**, Thai authorities reported a second case of laboratory-confirmed corona virus, a pneumonia infection.
- by 20 Jan 2020, 282 confirmed cases were reported from four countries, *China*: 278 cases, *Thailand*: 2 cases, *Japan*: 1 case and *Republic of Korea*: 1 case. All had travel history to Wuhan.
- by 23 Jan 2020, 584 cases were reported, 557 from China, including all 17 *deaths*. Although the disease has reached beyond China, the number of cases in other countries is so far small, and the disease does not seem to be spreading within those countries.
- 22-23 Jan 2020, IHR (International Health Regulations) Emergency Committee is convened by WHO Director-General, a global expert group, recommending the event does not yet constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

#### What is the novel corona virus (nCoV)?

 nCoV is a new strain of corona virus (2019-nCoV) that has not been previously identified in humans.



- Corona viruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness in animals and people.
- In people, corona viruses can cause illness ranging from common cold to severe diseases, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).
- Corona viruses are zoonotic, i.e. transmitted from animals and humans.

#### What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

- fever, cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties.
- severe cases result in pneumonia or acute respiratory syndrome or respiratory distress.



## How do people become infected with th novel coronavirus?

Intense investigations are underway, to determine the source of the outbreak (most likely an animal reservoir), the types of exposure and the mode of transmission.

### Can the virus be transmitted from person to person?

- There is at least some human to human transmission, although its extent is not yet clear. Infections among health care workers strengthen evidence of this. This is in line with experience with other respiratory illnesses and with previous coronavirus outbreaks.
- Additional investigations are needed to determine exactly how people become infected.

#### Is there a vaccine for 2019-nCoV?

Novel coronavirus is a new or newly identified disease. Hence there is no vaccine available.



Normally it takes several years to develop a new vaccine, if warranted.

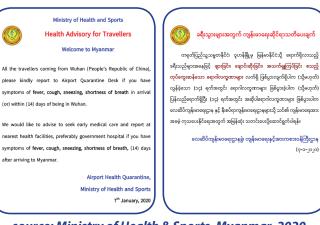
#### Does a treatment for 2019-nCoV exist?

There is no specific treatment for disease caused by novel corona virus. Treatment should be based on patient's symptoms. Supportive care can be highly effective.



#### Health Advisory for travellers at Myanmar international airports

- since 7 Jan 2020, all travellers from Wuhan city, China, are screened on arrival at Yangon, Mandalay or Naypyitaw international airports.
- in case of symptoms of fever, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath on arrival, travellers are asked to report to the Airport Quarantine Desk.
- in case of symptoms of fever, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath 14 days after arriving at Myanmar, travellers are advised to seek early medical care and report at nearest health facilities, preferably government hospital.



#### source: Ministry of Health & Sports, Myanmar, 2020

### How to protect yourself and others

- avoid unprotected contact with farm or wild animals
  - avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections





- wash hands frequently with soap & water - especially after direct contact with sick people or their environment
  - cover coughs & sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, maintain distance, wash hands with soap & water





seek advice from health professionals if you have symptoms of fever, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath • more information on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) at https://bit.ly/3aDAOJ1

 more information on situation reports at https://bit.ly/2GiQxiZ

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