

2019 Novel Coronavirus in China [2019-nCoV]

Information for Primary Care Doctors

Primary and Community Care
Division

Ministry of Health

4th February 2020

Contents

- Case Definition
- Clinical Management, Notification and Conveyance
- Travel Advice for Clinic Staff
- Useful Information

Current case definition (*updated 04 Feb*)

- Cases who fulfil the following suspect case criteria should be referred to hospital for further management:
 - a) A person with clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of pneumonia or severe respiratory infection with breathlessness **AND** travel to mainland China* within 14 days before onset of illness; **OR**
 - b) A person with an acute respiratory illness of any degree of severity who, within 14 days before onset of illness, had:
 - i. Been to Hubei province (including Wuhan city) or **Zhejiang Province (including Hangzhou city), China; OR**
 - ii. Been to a hospital in mainland China; OR
 - iii. Had close contact with a case of 2019 novel coronavirus infection; OR
 - iv. Had **frequent or close contact during work** with recent travellers from mainland China (travel history in the last 14 days).**
- Close contact is defined as:
 - Anyone who provided care for the patient, including a health care worker or family member, or who had other similarly close physical contact;
 - Anyone who stayed (e.g. household members) at the same place as a case.

Note: * Excludes transit in airport located in mainland China

****Persons who attended business meetings/discussions, frontline staff in hospitality and tourism (e.g. hotels, shops, tours) with regular dealings with travellers from mainland China.**

Patient Assessment and Workflow of Suspected Cases in Primary Care (GP Clinics)

- Suggested Workflow:
 - As part of infection control, clinics should routinely screen patients for fever and travel/contact history
 - Provide patients with respiratory symptoms or fever with a surgical mask
 - Suspect patients should be placed in a separate area where possible
- Management of suspect patients:
 - As per MOH Circular 26/2020, at DORSCON Yellow:
 - Triage staff should don a surgical mask; and
 - Doctors managing suspected cases should don appropriate PPE: N95 mask, gown and gloves

Notification

All suspect cases of 2019-nCoV are to be isolated and admitted

1. Call MOH Surveillance Duty Officer at 9817 1463 (avail. 24/7)
2. MOH officer will advise how to convey patient
3. Submit MD131 through online CDLENS portal or fax, under **Other significant disease: 2019 novel coronavirus**

Conveyance – Medically Stable

- If patient is **medically stable**, send to hospitals via the dedicated ambulance service* at **6220-5298** (avail. 24/7):
 - **Persons aged 16 years and above** (including pregnant women) will be sent to TTSH Emergency Department.
 - **Children below the age of 16 years** will be sent to KKH Children’s Emergency Department.
- When referring a suspect case via the dedicated ambulance service hotline, please gather the following details and provide them to the staff manning the hotline:
 - a. Patient’s full name, NRIC, gender and age;
 - b. Pick up address and postal code;
 - c. Name of clinic, referring doctor’s name and contact number;
 - d. Patient’s travel history – Has the patient visited Hubei Province (including Wuhan city), Zhejiang Province (including Hangzhou city) or mainland China in the past 14 days?
 - e. Patient’s contact history – Has the patient been in close contact with a case of 2019 novel coronavirus infection or had frequent or close contact during work with recent travellers from mainland China (travel history in the last 14 days)?;
 - f. Has the patient displayed any of the following signs and symptoms:
 - i. Fever
 - ii. Chills
 - iii. Respiratory symptoms: cough, sore throat, nasal obstruction/discharge, breathlessness
 - iv. Body ache
 - v. Headache
 - vi. Myalgia (muscle ache)
 - vii. Malaise (Lethargy)
 - viii. Anorexia (Loss of appetite)

* No payment required for dedicated ambulance.

Conveyance – Medically Unstable

- If patient is **medically unstable** (i.e. breathless, hypotensive), call for SCDF ambulance(995).
 - Please inform the ambulance operator that you are referring a **suspect case**.

* No payment required for dedicated ambulance.

Routine Clinical Management

- As part of routine clinical care for all other patients, doctors are advised to practice standard precautions and good hand hygiene
- Cleaning of premises should be carried out regularly:
 - Use of 70% alcohol
 - Do not spray cleansing agents as it may aerosolise infective agents
 - Cleansing agent should be applied using a damp cloth, left for at least 10 minutes but no longer than 30 minutes, thoroughly rinsed off and the area dried

Travel Advice for Clinic Staff

- Clinic staff should defer all non-essential travel to Mainland China
- Clinic staff returning from Mainland China will be required to take a Leave of Absence (LOA) for 14 days upon their return.
- Persons who have been put on a LOA should stay at home and avoid social contact. They should avoid crowded places and refrain from attending social or public gatherings.
- Clinic staff returning from China should monitor their health closely and seek medical attention promptly if they feel unwell, and inform their doctor of their travel history.
- If they have a fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose), they should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of their visit.
- Please refer to MOH Health Advisory for Persons Placed on Leave of Absence (01 Feb 2020) for more details.

Useful Information

Websites

- MOH circulars via MOH Alert portal*: mohalert.moh.gov.sg
 - Email for MOH circulars: MOH_INFO@moh.gov.sg
- MOH Website: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/2019-ncov-wuhan>
- AIC Website: <https://www.primarycarepages.sg/Pages/circulars-from-moh.aspx>

Hotlines

- CFPS hotline for GPs: 6221 8608 (Operational hours: 9am to 6pm from Mondays to Fridays)
- Hotline for General Public: 1800 333 9999 (Operational 24 hours)
- Dedicated Ambulance Service: 6220 5298. If medically unstable, call 995.

* Please only use Internet Explorer to assess circular via MOH Alert.

Thank you