

Spot report : WHO declares the new coronavirus outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern



The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared the coronavirus outbreak as a public-health emergency of international concern on Friday of January 31th 2020. The WHO designation, pointing to an increase in the number of cases, indicates that international public-health authorities now consider the respiratory virus a significant threat beyond China. The move could further heighten the **global response to the outbreak**. The agency made the declaration after a meeting of its emergency committee, which declined to do so last week. Since then, China, other governments and multinational businesses have taken emergency steps to limit the virus's spread, including halting some travel to China. At least 25 other countries or territories have also reported a small number of coronavirus cases.

Risk Assessment: Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on characteristics of the virus,

including whether and how well it spreads between people, the severity of resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine or treatment medications). This is a serious public health threat. The fact that this virus has caused severe illness and sustained person-to-person spread in China is concerning. The risk to individuals is dependent on exposure. At this time, some people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare workers caring for 2019-nCoV patients and other close contacts.

Actions Taken:

People's Republic of China continues to:

- Implement a comprehensive risk communication strategy to regularly inform the population on the evolution of the outbreak, the prevention and protection measures for the population, and the response measures taken for its containment
 - Enhance public health measures for containment of the current outbreak
 - Ensure the resilience of the health system and protect the health workforce
 - Enhance surveillance and active case finding across China
 - Collaborate with WHO and partners to conduct investigations to understand the epidemiology and the evolution of this outbreak and measures to contain it
 - Share relevant data on human cases
 - Continue to identify the zoonotic source of the outbreak, and particularly the potential for circulation with WHO as soon as it becomes available
 - Conduct exit screening at international airports and ports, with the aim of early detection of symptomatic travelers for further evaluation and treatment, while minimizing interference with international traffic

All countries:

- All countries should be prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of 2019-nCoV infection, and to share full data with WHO.
- Countries are reminded that they are legally required to share information with WHO under the IHR.
- Any detection of 2019-nCoV in an animal (including information about the species, diagnostic tests, and relevant epidemiological information) should be reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as an emerging disease.
- Countries should place particular emphasis on reducing human infection, prevention of secondary transmission and international spread, and contributing to the international

response through multi-sectoral communication and collaboration and active participation in increasing knowledge on the virus and the disease, as well as advancing research.

➤ The Committee does not recommend any travel or trade restriction based on the current information available.

➤ Countries must inform WHO about any travel measures taken, as required by the IHR. Countries are cautioned against actions that promote stigma or discrimination, in line with the principles of Article 3 of the IHR.

Severity ranking of the concerns effect in the ASEAN region.

| Section | Ranking | Issues identified | Recommendations |
|---|----------------|--|---|
| Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in Wuhan, China | Y | The national authorities have reached the affected area. | The ACMM keep on monitoring and update medical information. |

Remarks:

R: Severe Situation: Urgent intervention required.

Y: Situation of concern: Surveillance or assistance may or may not require, intensive monitoring

G: Relative normal situation or local Government can cope with the crisis, monitoring and no action required.

N/A: Lack of /unreliable data: Further assessment required.

ACMM Recommendations,

As a consequence, ACMM and all member countries had a BOD VTC's meeting to closely monitor the situation and scale up the Emergency Operations Center to REDCON Level 2. In addition, ACMM recommend using the guidance for novel coronavirus of CDC and WHO for detection, surveillance and precaution. ACMM also facilitate and coordinate the cooperation between military and civilian.

References:

1. <https://www.WHO.com/>
2. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-triggers-damage-control-from-governments-companies-11580396657><http://virological.org>
3. <http://cdc.gov>