

Novel Corona Virus Update

26 January 2020

Background

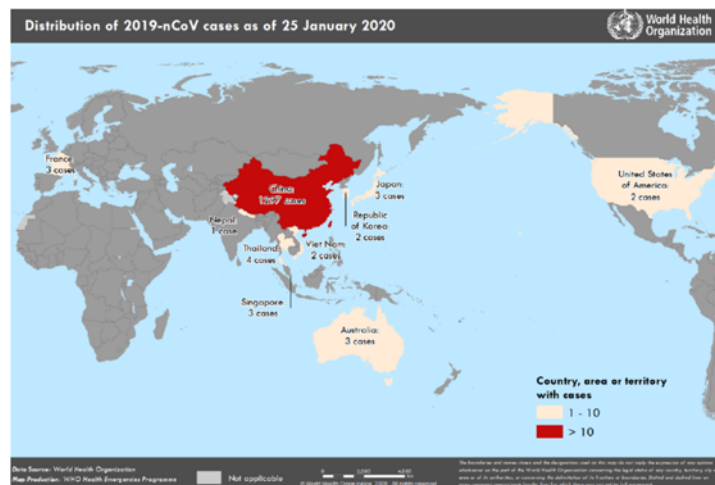
The world has seen the emergence of a novel Corona Virus on 31 December 2019, officially referred to as 2019-nCoV. The virus was first isolated from persons with pneumonia in Wuhan city, China. Since then the virus has affected many people in Wuhan, other parts of China and newer countries.

The WHO has **not** declared the “2019-nCoV” outbreak as a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” yet. However, it must be noted that China is facing a major outbreak which is concerning. Unprecedented actions are under way in China to control the outbreak.

Other member states are focusing to detect cases imported in the country and limit more infection from these cases.

Global Situation

- A total of **1,320 confirmed cases** have been reported for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
- Of the 1,320 cases reported, 1,297 cases were reported from China, including Hong Kong SAR (5 confirmed cases), Macau SAR (2 confirmed cases) and Taipei (3 confirmed cases).
- A total of **1,965 suspected cases** have been reported from 20 Chinese provinces, regions and cities (excluding Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taipei).
- **Twenty-three** confirmed cases have been reported outside of China in nine countries.
- Of the 1,287 confirmed cases (excluding Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taipei), **237 cases** have been reported as **severely ill**.
- **41 deaths** have been reported to date (39 deaths in Hubei province)



Maldives Situation and Actions Taken

- As of 26th January 2020, **NO** case has been reported.
- As Maldives is a major hub for tourist especially Chinese (approximately 15000/month), preparedness is critically important.
- WHO supported development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for points of entry (airports and sea ports) as well as for case identification, diagnosis and treatment.
- Screening of passengers at the International Airports and Sea Ports have been initiated.
- 1 Thermal Scanner has been placed at Male Velaana International Airport and expected to be placed at Addu Airport shortly where manual screening has been initiated.

- A temporary Isolation room has been created at Velaana airport and an empty school in Hulhumale is being converted to a temporary quarantine facility

WHO's key message

- Governments and Ministries **NEED TO BE VIGILANT** to detect imported cases and take appropriate action outside China and areas in China where the disease is not endemic.
- **Much remains to be understood about this new coronavirus (2019-nCoV):** Not enough is known to draw definitive conclusions about how it is transmitted, clinical features of the disease, its severity, the extent to which it has spread or its source.
- **WHO encourages all countries to continue preparedness activities:** We have issued interim guidance on how to do this and continue to update this information in consultation with networks of experts across the globe.
- **More cases could be expected in other parts of China and in other countries in coming days.**

What people should do?

- **Avoiding close contact** with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent **hand-washing**, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should **practice cough etiquette** (maintain 1-meter distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).



For further Information please contact

Dr Arvind Mathur, WHO Representative & UN Resident Coordinator a.i.

Email : mathura@who.int, Tel: +960 3327519, Mobile: +960 7772034

kindly see: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> or Follow WHO on [Twitter](#)