

Situation Update on Novel Coronavirus (nCoV)

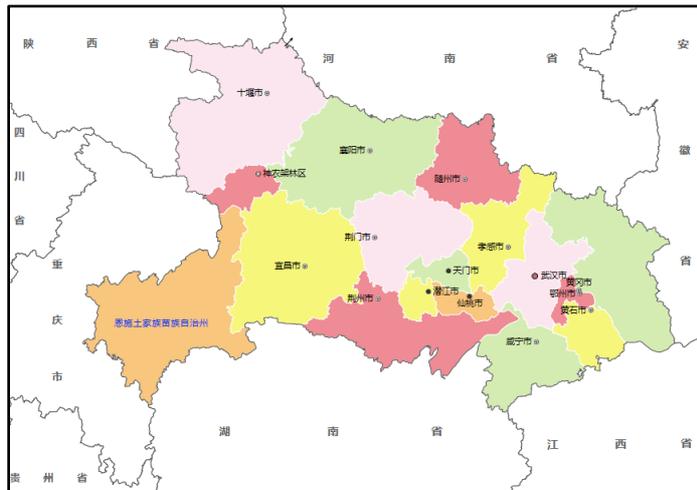
Local Situation

On 23 January 2020, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) announced two confirmed imported cases of novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection in Hong Kong. First case is a 39-year-old male who lives in Wuhan, developed fever and blocked nose since 21 January. He travelled from Wuhan to Hong Kong by High-Speed Rail. He was detected fever by staff of Port Health Division and referred to QEH for admission. Second case is a 56-year-old male who is a Hong Kong resident, travelled to Wuhan from 10 to 19 January. He developed fever since 18 January but no respiratory symptoms reported. He was admitted to PWH on 21 January. Both have been isolated and receiving treatment in HA Infectious Disease Centre (IDC), and they are in stable condition.

Global Situation

As of 23 January 2020, a total of 830 confirmed cases in Mainland China have been reported for nCoV, involving 20 Provinces, 4 municipals and 2 Autonomous regions. Most of the cases (n = 468) were from Hubei Province (湖北省). Among the 830 cases, 177 cases were in serious condition and 25 were fatal cases.

In total 16 confirmed cases from other countries/ areas including Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Macao, Hong Kong and United States. All the cases were related to Wuhan.



CHP: Map of the first level of administrative regions under Hubei Province

Case Reporting Criteria

In view of the latest situation and risk assessment, the CHP further revised the reporting criteria of "Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent" which has been effective from 23 January. Any individual fulfilled the following should be reported to CHP and HAHO through eNID / NDORS for epidemiological investigation:

- Presented with fever **OR** acute respiratory illness **OR** pneumonia; **AND**
- Either one of the following conditions within 14 days **BEFORE ONSET OF SYMPTOM**:
 1. With travel history to Hubei Province (irrespective of any exposure to a wet market or seafood market); **OR**
 2. Visited a medical hospital in Mainland China; **OR**
 3. Had close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus infection while that patient was symptomatic.

Case definition from CHP is available at: https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/disease.html

Laboratory Investigation

- Send 1 upper respiratory tract specimen (Nasopharyngeal flocked swabs (NPFS), or Nasopharyngeal aspirate (NPA)) to HA laboratories to rule out a panel of respiratory viruses
- Preferably send 1 lower respiratory tract specimen (Sputum, Tracheal aspirate or Bronchoalveolar Lavage) or 1 upper respiratory tract specimen (NPFS or NPA pooled with Throat swab) to Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) for RT-PCR for nCoV.

Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance for nCoV

In view of the increasing pneumonia reported cases and the start of Spring Festival travel rush in China, the scope of the enhanced laboratory surveillance has been widened on 21 January 2020. Inclusion criteria are as follows:

- (i) Any pneumonia case (irrespective of their travel history):
 - with unknown causes (not responding to treatment in 3 days); or
 - requiring ICU care; or
 - occurring in clusters; or
 - who is a healthcare worker.
- (ii) Any inpatient with pneumonia and travel history to Mainland China within 14 days before onset of symptom.

Staff should stay vigilant against nCoV and pay attention to the following enhanced infection control measures:

1. Universal masking:

- Staff and visitors are required to wear surgical masks in all clinical areas.
- Besides, patients at medical wards, renal units, hematology wards and clinical oncology wards are encouraged to put on surgical masks as far as possible.
- Hospitals will provide surgical masks to patients and visitors if necessary

2. Hand hygiene:

- Reinforce staff, patients and visitors to observe good hand hygiene practices.
- Ensure the availability and accessibility of hand hygiene facilities in hospital and ward areas.
- Mobile staff are encouraged to use pocket-sized bottles of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)

3. Notice to visitors

- Remind visitors to avoid visiting hospitals when having fever or respiratory symptoms.
- Display the poster (Photo1) at ward entrance and where appropriate.

4. Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Staff should wear appropriate PPE i.e. N95 respirator, eye protection, isolation gown and disposable gloves for caring of suspected / confirmed nCoV patients and performing aerosol-generating procedures (AGP)



Dr Raymond Lai, Chief Infection Control Officer (CICO), shared useful tips on using masks, hand hygiene techniques and enhanced measures under Serious Response Level (S2) in HA.



Pocket-sized bottle of ABHR

Recommended PPE for suspected / confirmed novel coronavirus cases

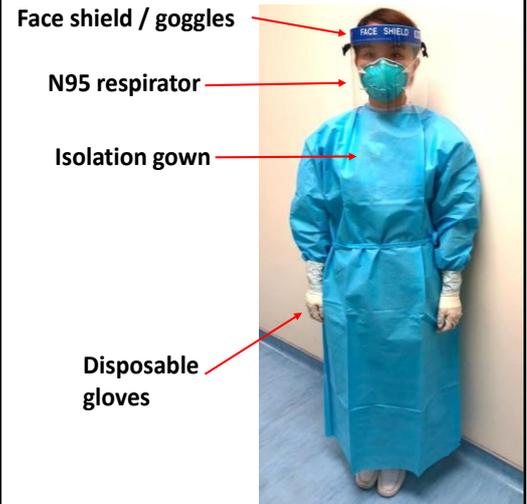


Photo1: Important notice to visitors

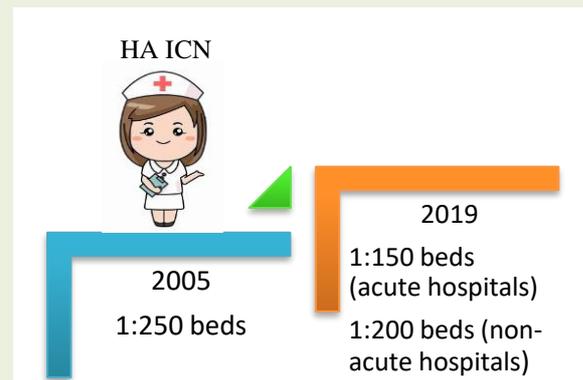
1. 「防感染•你要知：口罩款式的迷思」：<https://fbwat.ch/1YiqYM6nvdD53NMZ>
2. 「防感染•你要知：正確配戴口罩的方法」：<https://fbwat.ch/1e4oSb29Xel0qP45>
3. 「防感染•你要知：到公立醫院、診所或探病的注意事項」：<https://fbwat.ch/1SiSyZnBelJJ78wB>
4. 「防感染•你要知：探病時間與人數限制」：<https://fbwat.ch/1NSRc2stoDKBCppY>
5. 「防感染•你要知：洗手有咩技巧呢？」：<https://fbwat.ch/1cnduErCYctGwIKc>

New Recommendations on Hospital Infection Control System in Hong Kong

The Recommendations on Hospital Infection Control (IC) System in Hong Kong was first issued by the Scientific Committee on Infection Control (SCIC) in July 2005. As there has been a change of local situation in the past years, a comprehensive review on this paper has been conducted by the SCIC, and the recommendations were updated in December 2019.

It is highlighted that SCIC recommends a new ratio of one infection control nurse (ICN) to 150 hospital beds for acute hospitals (i.e. with Accident & Emergency Department) and one ICN to 200 hospital beds for non-acute hospitals. A higher ICN to hospital beds ratio should be adopted if the hospital has a higher rate of invasive and specialized ambulatory practices, and high risk patients admitted in the hospital.

The IC team must be multidisciplinary, and include trained nurses, infectious diseases, microbiology, statisticians and information technology (IT) support.



For details, please visit: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_hospital_infection_control_system_in_hong_kong.pdf