



CORONA VIRUS : ADVISORY

It is **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**.

On 31st December 2019, China informed WHO Country Office regarding cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology from Wuhan City, Hubei, China.

- On 7th January 2020, a novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) or **Wuhan Pneumonia** or **Wuhan Coronavirus** identified as the causative virus by Chinese authorities.
- Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as : **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)**, **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV)**. A novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.
- Coronaviruses are **zoonotic viruses**, transmitted between animals and people.

We are learning – “building the ship while sailing” – Where it came from and how it affects people.

Mode of transmission :

Infected people coughing, sneezing and touching infected persons hands/face or touching door knobs that infected people have touched. Transmitted by **Respiratory Aerosol Secretions**. Almost everyone gets Coronavirus infection atleast once in their life.

Incubation period : Two days to two weeks

Symptoms :

Running of nose, cough, fever, sore throat. **Pneumonia** – viral or secondary bacterial pneumonia in heart patients or if immune system is weak. **Bronchitis** – viral or secondary bacterial bronchitis. Common in Winter, early spring season. These viruses continually circulate in human population and cause **respiratory infection** in human world wide.

Treatment :

- No specific treatment for the virus.
- Treatment is supportive.
- No vaccine as yet.
- Seek medical care if you have fever, cough and difficulty in breathing.

Control measures :

- Stay at home, don't travel while sick, cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper or your sleeves and not with your hand when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water or Alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Keep your fingers away from eyes, nose, mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are infected.
- N95 mask may be used to ward off the infection.
- When visiting markets, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals.

So far mild to severe disease but fatal in some.

Case fatality ratio (CFR) is 2.8% • SARS CFR about 10% but no deaths reported from outside China so far.

Countries to prevent importation of virus.

Travel advisory and thermal screening at airports.

P. N.