

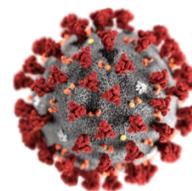
Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

All Staff

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Details:

On 31 December 2019, China advised the World Health Organization (WHO) of a viral respiratory illness in Wuhan, China. In January 2020, officials identified this as being a new coronavirus called *novel coronavirus* or 2019-nCoV. It had not previously been detected in humans.



Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that are zoonotic viruses in that they can spill over from animals to people. It is not yet known how 2019-nCoV was transmitted to people. A live animal market in Wuhan is suspected as the original source, but this hasn't yet been confirmed.

Signs and Symptoms

As with other respiratory illnesses, infection with 2019-nCoV can cause mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. It can be more severe for some persons and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as, diabetes and heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus

Protect yourself

As this is a new virus, there is no vaccine currently available. There are practical measures you can take however to protect yourself and others, such as:

- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth
- Practice respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose when sneezing
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is showing signs of sickness
- Thoroughly cook all meat and eggs
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early

Plan of action

New Zealand's current and planned preparedness and response activities for coronavirus are all consistent with the advice from WHO. It is important to note that as the situation continues to evolve, so will the strategic goals and measures to prevent and reduce spread of the infection. Delta will be following the advice from the WHO in managing the outbreak and will keep all staff informed as new information becomes available.

Immediate actions	Who	By when
For more accurate and up to date information on the Coronavirus outbreak: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Health https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov• World Health Organisation https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019	<i>All staff</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
If you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, please telephone Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116	<i>All staff</i>	<i>ASAP</i>

Contact person/s:

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Please share this Health Alert with your colleagues

