

Coronavirus Outbreak: Basic facts and definitions

Coronaviruses (CoV) is a big family of viruses that may cause an illness as simple as common cold to life threatening diseases like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain of the virus that has not been previously detected in humans. These viruses are transmitted between animals and humans. Common presenting features include symptoms related to breathing difficulties, fever, and shortness of breath. In advanced cases it can present as pneumonia, SARS, and kidney failure. In rare cases the infection can result in death of the patient. (WHO, 2020)

Case Definitions:

- Suspect case
- Probable case
- Confirmed case

A **suspect** case is a patient with fever, cough, **and** necessitating admission to hospital **and** with no other etiology that could explain the presenting symptoms. The case **definition also includes** history of travel to or residence in Wuhan city or Hubei province of China within 14 days of onset of symptoms. The health care workers taking care of these patients are also included as suspect cases if they also develop these symptoms. The Category B of suspect cases includes patients with similar symptoms who have been in contact with probable or confirmed cases or worked in a health care facility where these patients are being treated.

A **probable** case is a suspect case for whom testing for 2019-nCoV is inconclusive or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay.

A **confirmed** case is the one who tests positive for 2019-nCoV irrespective of symptoms. (Team, 2020)

Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected

Clinical syndromes associated with 2019-nCoV infection include uncomplicated illness, mild or severe pneumonia, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), sepsis and septic shock. WHO recommends immediate implementation of infection control and prevention measures as well as institution of early supportive therapy and monitoring. This also includes collection of samples for lab diagnosis. These include blood cultures and specimens from upper and lower respiratory tract for nCoV testing. WHO has also made recommendations for management of hypoxemic respiratory failure, ARDS, and septic shock. It clarifies there is no current evidence from RCTs to recommend any specific anti-nCoV treatment for patients with suspected or confirmed nCoV. (WHO T. , 2020)

Home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection presenting with mild symptoms and management of contacts

The family members and health care workers should adhere to the following recommendations. Place the patient in a well-ventilated single room and limit the number of caretakers of the patient. No visitors shall be allowed, and household members should stay in a different room. Patient's movements should be limited. Shared spaces should be kept well ventilated. (WHO T. , Home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection presenting with mild symptoms and management of contacts, 2020)

Guidelines for Infection prevention and control, risk communications, readiness checklist, disease commodity package and reducing transmission from animals to humans are also provided. (WHO, 2020)

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