

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY 02/2020
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (“nCoV”) SITUATION UPDATE 22 Jan 2020 2200hrs

1. This LTA advisory seeks to:
 - a. Update Contractors at LTA construction projects on the local situation regarding the novel Coronavirus (“nCoV”) Pneumonia in Wuhan, China; and
 - b. Inform Contractors to take appropriate precautionary measures in alignment to the Ministry of Health (MOH) or other relevant agencies’ guidelines.

Local Situation

2. In view of the confirmation of human-to-human transmission by the Chinese authorities, MOH has put in place additional precautionary measures to reduce the risk of importation of the virus to Singapore.
3. From 22 Jan 2020, temperature screening at Changi Airport has been expanded to all inbound travellers on flights arriving from China, and suspect cases meeting the expanded definition will be referred to hospitals for further assessment. Health Advisory Notices will be issued to all travellers arriving at Changi Airport from China, and health advisory posters will also be distributed at land and sea checkpoints.
4. Suspect cases include persons with:
 - a. Pneumonia and travel history to China within 14 days before onset of symptoms; or
 - b. Acute respiratory infection who had been to any hospital in China, within 14 days before onset of symptoms.

They will be isolated in hospital as a precautionary measure to prevent transmission.

Enhanced Preparedness and Precautionary Measures

5. Contractors are reminded to execute their Business Continuity Plans for Pandemic in alignment with MOH or other agencies’ advisories issued.
6. To contain the spread of the virus, the authorities in Wuhan has urged visitors to stay away, and for residents not to leave the city. In view of this, Contractors should advise their staff not to travel to Wuhan and the larger Hubei province unless absolutely necessary, and to facilitate rescheduling of leave for those who decide to defer their trips.
7. If you have staff who are coming back from China, MOH does not require self-isolation at this juncture. Staff returning from China during this period should also be advised to monitor their health for two weeks upon returning to Singapore, and to seek medical attention immediately if they feel unwell. They should also inform the doctor of their recent travel history to China.

8. Contractors are to inform LTA Project Teams of the following:
 - a. Completion of all preparation and implementation of the Business Continuity Plan for Pandemic, and
 - b. Upon hospitalisation of any staff for suspected or confirmed cases of infection.

Clarifications

9. Further advisories will be circulated if there are further development in the situation.
10. Please contact LTA Project Team for any further clarifications on this advisory.

Land Transport Authority

Enclosures:

1. Press Release “Update on Local Situation Regarding Severe Pneumonia Cluster in Wuhan”, by Ministry of Health, dated 22 Jan 2020
2. Press Release “MOH Issues Public Health Travel Advisory in response to Cases of Novel Coronavirus in China”, by Ministry of Health dated 22 Jan 2020.

**UPDATE ON LOCAL SITUATION REGARDING SEVERE PNEUMONIA CLUSTER
IN WUHAN, DATED 22 JAN 2020**

As of 4pm, 22 January 2020, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has been notified of three additional suspect cases with pneumonia, who had travel history to mainland China. The cases involve a 3 year-old male Chinese national, a 4 year-old male Chinese national, and a 78 year-old female Singapore resident. The cases have been admitted for further assessment and treatment, and isolated as a precautionary measure. They are in stable condition.

Source: MOH Press Release

MOH ISSUES PUBLIC HEALTH TRAVEL ADVISORY IN RESPONSE TO CASES OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS IN CHINA, DATED 22 JAN 2020.

In view of the novel coronavirus situation in Wuhan and other parts of China, the Ministry of Health (MOH) advises travellers to avoid non-essential travel to Wuhan. MOH also reminds the public to continue to exercise caution and attention to personal hygiene when travelling to the rest of China.

2. Travellers should adopt the following precautions at all times:

- Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds, and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
- Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
- Observe good personal hygiene;
- Practise frequent hand washing with soap (e.g. before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing);
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
- Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately; and
- Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell.

3. All travellers should monitor their health closely for 2 weeks upon return to Singapore and seek medical attention promptly if they feel unwell, and also inform their doctor of their travel history. If they have a fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose), they should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of the visit.

4. Given the evolving situation and ongoing investigations in China, Singapore residents who need to travel to the affected areas are advised to regularly check MOH's website (www.moh.gov.sg) for updates. Travellers to China are also advised to stay vigilant, monitor developments and heed the advice of the local Chinese authorities while in China.

5. MOH has put in place precautionary measures to reduce the risk of importation of the virus to Singapore. The definition of suspect cases from 22 January 2020 include persons with:

- (i) pneumonia and travel history to China within 14 days before onset of symptoms; or

(ii) acute respiratory infection who had been to any hospital in China, within 14 days before onset of symptoms.

These cases will be isolated in hospital as a precautionary measure to prevent transmission.

6. From 22 January 2020, temperature screening at Changi Airport has also been expanded to all inbound travellers on flights arriving from China, and suspect cases meeting the expanded definition above will be referred to hospitals for further assessment. Health Advisory Notices are issued to all travellers arriving at Changi Airport from China, and health advisory posters are displayed at land and sea checkpoints.

7. MOH has also reminded doctors and healthcare workers to be vigilant, and maintain strict infection control and prevention measures.

8. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus reported in Singapore. However, given the high volume of international travel to Singapore, we expect to see more suspect cases, and imported cases. Once a case is confirmed, contact tracing will be initiated, and we will implement strict isolation, quarantine, and infection control and prevention measures to prevent further transmission.

Source: MOH Press Release