

Message for all UN personnel on the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak:

The UN's Department of Health Management and Occupational Safety and Health (DHMOSH) is closely monitoring the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China on 31 December. Additional cases have since been identified in China's cities outside of Wuhan as well as other countries outside of China. For WHO's update on the situation, see <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

The Division of Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety and Health (DHMOSH) recommends the following **key preventive measures for all UN personnel against 2019-nCoV**.

1. Take steps to prevent illness with respiratory pathogens:

- Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections such as with fever, cough and difficulty breathing.
- Perform frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Individuals with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette including:
 - o Maintain your distance from others;
 - o Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing or sneezing;
 - o Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
 - o Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials;
- Avoid close contact and unprotected with live or dead farm or wild animals;
- When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals;
- The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices;
- Preliminary information suggests that older adults and people with underlying health conditions may be at increased risk for severe disease from this virus.

2. Pay attention to your health during your travel to outbreak locations and after you leave.

- **Seek medical care immediately** if you begin to develop fever or respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath or cough. Remember to share your previous travel history with your health care provider.
- You should make every effort to inform the medical clinic by telephone about your condition prior to presenting in person there.

3. Keep up to date with local health advice before and during your travel

For all travelers, while WHO advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on countries with nCoV, please be aware that **local authorities may begin to implement travel restrictions and health screening measures for travelers entering or exiting the country**. All UN personnel should check with the destination countries' embassy, consulate or Ministry of Health and keep up to date with local health advice before and during your travel. You should also comply with any screening measures put in place by local authorities.

The above information and more have been posted on DHMOSH's [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-NCoV\)](https://hr.un.org/page/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov) webpage available at <https://hr.un.org/page/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>, and our [Travel Health Information for UN Personnel](https://hr.un.org/page/travel-health-information-for-un-personnel) webpage available at [https://hr.un.org/page/travel-health-](https://hr.un.org/page/travel-health-information-for-un-personnel)

information. Similar messages have been posted on the DSS TRIP system for individuals seeking travel clearance into China.

For any questions, please contact DHMOSH's Public Health team at dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org.