



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & PREVENTION

ABU DHABI PUBLIC HEALTH CENTRE | مركز أبوظبي  
للصحة العامة



حكومة دبي  
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة الصحة بدبي  
DUBAI HEALTH AUTHORITY

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



**Interim Guide to Novel Coronavirus  
Infection COVID-19  
Version No: 6  
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## **Epidemiology**

COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that was first identified in a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Majority of cases are reported in Hubei province. Cases are also reported in other provinces of China. 109 countries beside China have reported cases. Globally, 113702 cases were reported up to date.

## **Mode of transmission**

COVID-19 virus is spreading through droplet infection and through exposure to contaminated common surfaces. Information suggests that the COVID-19 started as a zoonotic spillover and growing evidence is confirming human-to-human transmission. Cases were reported among healthcare workers taking care of COVID-19 cases.

## **Clinical Features**

Most of the cases have shown respiratory symptoms, fever, shortness of breath and pneumonia.

## **Treatment**

Currently, there is no known treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals. Intensive supportive care with the treatment of symptoms is the main approach to manage the infection in people.



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## Surveillance Case Definition (appendix 1)

### Suspected COVID-19 is defined as:

1. A person with acute respiratory illness (cough and/or shortness of breath with or without fever) illness and any of the following:
  - Has returned from any of the countries reporting local transmission of COVID 19 disease in the last **14** days prior to symptoms onset.
  - Has cared for/come into close contact\* with an individual known as confirmed case of COVID-19 within **14** days
2. Sever Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI\*\*) cases that require admission to hospital with no other lab result that explains illness.

### **\* Close contact is defined as:**

- Health care associated exposure, including providing direct care for COVID-19 patients, working with health care workers infected with COVID-19, visiting patients or staying in the same close environment of a COVID-19 patient.
- Working together in close proximity or sharing the same classroom environment with a with COVID-19 patient
- traveling together with COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance
- Living in the same household as a COVID-19 patient
- living in the same household as COVID-19 patient



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### **\*\*SARI case definition:**

An Acute respiratory infection with:

- history of fever or measured fever of  $\geq 38$  C
  - And cough
  - with onset within the last 10 days
  - and requires hospitalization
- ✓ Admit only severe acute respiratory infection cases (SARI)
  - ✓ Advise home quarantine for suspected cases with mild symptoms (If no isolation bed is available)

### **Confirmed COVID-19 is defined as:**

A Confirmed case is defined as a suspected case with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection.

### **Laboratory diagnosis:**

At this stage, the laboratory testing for COVID-19 is performed at the sub national laboratories and positive cases are confirmed by the SKMC laboratory Abu Dhabi

Testing is performed to confirm a clinically suspected case and to screen contacts.

### **Infection control in Healthcare Facilities:**

The mode of transmission of COVID-19 remains unknown. In general, the following are recommended:

1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Triage at the entry point of the healthcare facility, for early identification of all patients with acute respiratory illness



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3. Practice contact and droplet precautions (wear a fit-tested N95 mask, eye protection i.e. goggles or a face shield, gloves and impermeable apron. while handling COVID-19 patient (suspected/ confirmed).
4. Practice additional precautions for aerosol-generating procedures as (bronchoscopy, intubation, suction, nebulization, CPR, autopsy).

### **Samples collection and transport**

- Collect nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs and sputum or BAL samples for patients with lower respiratory symptoms (if available)
- Send samples to reference laboratory in health authority for PCR testing.

### **Measures at Points of Entry (PoE):**

Health control centers at PoE are required to screen travelers arriving from the defined countries with local transmission for fever, and refer suspected cases (as defined above) immediately to hospitals and health facilities that have been previously arranged with.

**In order to ensure its ability to deal with suspected cases, it is required of all health control centers in the PoE assure the following:**

1. Policies, procedures and supplies (including personal protection devices) and workers trained to assess and deal with suspected cases
2. Means for the exchange of information between the PoE operators and the health control centers in the ports, and between the health control centers in the ports and the program of the International Health Regulations at the Ministry.
3. Existing coordination to transfer suspected cases to appropriate health facilities for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment provision.
4. A functional public health emergency plan for the PoE.



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5. Procedures and supplies needed to disinfect and sterilize sites and tools that are expected to be contaminated during the management of suspected cases among travelers.
6. Health awareness facilities suitable for travelers, transport operators and operators working at the port.
7. In the event of a notification of a suspected case traveling on a ship or a plane, the operator of the means of transportation should provide the required information. The passenger identification form should be completed when there is a suspected case on the plane, and include contact information with the passenger.

### **Reporting and Response**

COVID-19 is an emerging pathogen and suspected cases must be reported immediately through:

By calling the preventive medicine center in the district and report them

### **Tips for travelers heading to areas where the 2019-nCoV was reported:**

1. Avoid contact with animals (live or dead), animal products or visiting animal markets.
2. Avoid contact with people with respiratory symptoms.
3. If symptoms of a respiratory infection appear, you should:
  - Stay at home and avoid contacting with others.
  - Visiting the hospital and seek medical advice and provide them with travel history.
  - Avoid traveling while having symptoms.
  - Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
  - Clean hands by washing them for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or with alcohol sterilizers



## Appendix#1: Case Definition for suspected COVID-19 Case

\*Patient present with upper or lower respiratory symptoms “With or Without Fever” AND any of the following:

OR

Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)\*\* with no other lab result that explains illness

Has returned from a **country/area reporting local transmission of COVID 19 disease** in the last **14** days prior to symptoms onset ( refer to up to date WHO situation report table for countries with local transmission in the below attachment  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

Has cared for/come into contact with an individual known as confirmed case of COVID-19 within **14** days

- Admit only severe acute respiratory infection cases (SARI)
- Apply standard, contact & airborne precautions

### Possibility of COVID-19 infection

- Collect samples from sputum or BAL (**if possible**) **OR** nasopharyngeal aspirate **OR** combined nasopharyngeal swabs
- Advise home quarantine for suspected cases with mild symptoms (**if no bed is available**)
- Send samples to reference laboratory in health authority for PCR testing
- If positive, admit for isolation

### Notes

#### \*Symptoms could be any of the following:

- Fever,
  - Coughing.
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
  - Any of other early symptoms like chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, and runny nose.

#### \*\*SARI case definition:

- An Acute respiratory infection with:
- history of fever or measured fever of  $\geq 38$  C
  - And cough
  - with onset within the last 10 days
  - and requires hospitalization



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