

Summary of alert notification

Title: Pneumonia of unknown aetiology, Wuhan, China

Alert type	Serious Cross-Border Threat to Health
Status	Active
Category	Biological origin: Communicable diseases
Agent	Unknown
Agent details	-
Disease	Pneumonia
Onset date	2019/12/12
Detection date	2019/12/31
Notification date	2020/01/09
Countries of occurrence	China
Affected countries	-
Organisation access	European Commission ECDC Public Health Authorities WHO

Alert notification criteria according to Decision 1082/2013/EU

- **Article 9 1(a)**
 - It is unusual or unexpected for the given place and time
- **Article 9 1(b)**
 - It affects or may affect more than one EU Member state
- **Article 9 1(c)**
 - It requires or may require a coordinated response at Union level

Article 6. Notification according to the decision instrument presented in Annex 2.: An event of potential international public health concern.

No IHR notification reported

Description of Event

Date posted on EWRS: 09/01/2020

From: EC

Dear EWRS,

Following the reports and as of 5 of January, 59 cases with no deaths associated of pneumonia of unknown aetiology have been reported in Wuhan City, China, with a common exposure in Wuhan South China Seafood City market.

SARS and MERS coronavirus, influenza or avian influenza viruses as well as adenovirus have been excluded as the causative agent of these cases. No human to human transmission nor cases among health care workers have been reported.

Reports of laboratory investigations show a possibility of a new coronavirus being the origin of this outbreak.

In light of the recent developments and ahead of the publication of the RRA, we would like to invite EWRS users to share relevant information and measures taken by their country.

Best,

SANTE EWRS

From: Denmark

Dear colleagues,

In Denmark, Statens Serum Institut has published a news item on its website on 8 January (in Danish language), stating that local cases in China has tested negative for a range of viruses, including SARS coronavirus and MERS-CoV. We also stated that there is still a possibility that the outbreak could be caused by a new virus not detected by currently available test-kits and that we are following the situation closely and will update our website when new information becomes available. In line with WHO recommendations, no restrictions in travel to or trade with China has been imposed.

Best regards,

Danish EWRS team

From: Portugal

Dear colleagues,

Following the alert regarding the cluster of pneumonia cases in China, we shared the available information through our weekly threats bulleting to the health authorities' network nationwide as well as to several other stakeholders.

The Director-General of Health answered several questions from national press.

No restrictions on travel or trade regarding China were applied, considering WHO advice.

Portuguese health authorities remain vigilant and closely monitoring this situation in China and will update the epidemiological information whenever relevant.

EWRS PT Team

From: Finland

Dear colleagues,

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has today published news stating what is known at the moment. We have indicated that the preliminary results are suggestive of coronavirus, as stated by the WHO today. We stressed that WHO does not recommend any specific measures for travellers and advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China.

THL is monitoring the situation through the information sharing platforms (WHO, ECDC).

Best regards,

Finnish EWRS team

From: Italy

Dear colleagues,

the measures specified below are implemented so far in Italy:

Information on public health measures planned or undertaken

The MoH published a communicate with available information on its website and transmitted it to UNSMAF/SASN (peripheral offices of the MoH at ports and airports) and local health authorities to rise awareness.

There are three direct flights/week from Wuhan to Rome FCO, therefore a procedure was defined to check the presence of suspected cases on board, and their transfer to the National Infectious Disease Hospital (INMI Lazzaro Spallanzani), Rome.

No restrictions on travel or trade regarding China are applied, according to WHO advice.

The MoH is monitoring the situation and will update the epidemiological information whenever relevant.

Risk Communication

A travel advice (in Italian and English) was drafted for travellers going/returning from Wuhan to be shown in airports.

From: Germany

Dear Colleagues,

The Robert Koch-Institute (RKI) is closely monitoring the event in Wuhan, China through the epidemic intelligence unit. Updates and information regarding the event are provided on the RKI website for health professionals. Additionally, the federal foreign office provides information for travelers on its webpage. In line with WHO recommendations, no travel or trade restrictions are recommended in Germany. To our knowledge, there are no direct flight connections between Germany and Wuhan.

Best Regards,

German EWRS Team

From: EC

Dear EWRS colleagues,

Please find attached ECDC's Threat Assessment Brief on the pneumonia cases possibly associated to a novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China.

Best regards,

SANTE EWRS