

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

Date posted on EWRS: 10/01/2020

From: Slovenia

Dear colleagues,

National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) published update on pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China for general public and travelers on NIJZ webpage. No travel or trade restrictions to Wuhan, China are recommended. In addition, health care professionals will be notified tomorrow about the situation through weekly bulletin and advice given how to manage a suspected case (use of PPE as recommended by CDC and immediate notification of suspected case to NIJZ).

Regards,
Slovenian EWRS team

From: Ireland

Dear colleagues,

The Irish Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HSE-HPSC) is closely monitoring the event in Wuhan, China. As information becomes available, it is shared through secure, official channels with key stakeholders and health care providers. Publically available information is posted on the website of the national surveillance institute. We continue to monitor the situation as per ECDC and WHO reports and will update our website accordingly.

Ireland has no direct flights to the affected area and no restrictions on travel or trade regarding China have been applied.

Kind regards,
Irish EWRS team

From: Slovakia

Dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you on posting the information and recommendation for public on the Public Health Authority of SR website about this event. The process of the information to be posted to health care staff is being discussed. We have also informed the other sectors - the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Exterior Affairs and the Ministry of Interior Affairs. As there is no direct or indirect flight connection with China from Slovakia no other special measures are considered at this moment.

At the same time we would also like to share the information about the the occurrence and confirmation of the avian influenza A(H5N8) in the poultry in one domestic farm in the Nitra region, Slovakia. 22 pieces of poultry (chicken) were killed so far by the farmer, in 3 pieces of them the avian influenza A(H5N8) was confirmed. The avian influenza is of the same type as in Poland. We were informed about this event by the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic which is monitoring the situation. The information is also on their website.

Kind regards,

Slovakia EWRS Team

From: United Kingdom

Dear colleagues,

In the UK, the situation is being monitored by the Epidemic Intelligence team at Public Health England (PHE). The following measures have been put in place:

- Health care professionals have been provided information in the event that they encounter pneumonia cases in patients following travel to Wuhan, with advice on infection control and laboratory investigations. Guidance will be provided to health care professionals on the GOV.UK website on an ongoing basis.
- A press statement has been published

[<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu->

advice-for-travel-to-china] to provide the general public with information and assurance.

- Through our partners, our advice to travellers to Wuhan will be to remain aware of the symptoms of pneumonia; if these develop within 14 days of travel, to seek medical attention, reporting their travel to the health professional.
- There are three flights per week from London to Wuhan and vice versa. In line with WHO recommendations, there have been no travel or trade restrictions put in place and there are no screening or other measures at points of entry.

Best wishes,
UK EWRS Team

From: Romania

Dear Colleagues,

In Romania the National Institute of Public Health Romania (NIPH) - through its competent bodies - is monitoring the information related to the event in Wuhan, China.

We informed the Ministry of Health, the regional public health centers of NIPH, the county public health authorities and the “Cantacuzino” Institute laboratory about this event.

Travel information is posted on our website.

The county public health authorities were requested to inform all the family doctors and the sanitary units in their area.

Romania has no direct flights to the affected area.

According to the WHO recommendations no restriction on travel or trade related to China have been applied.

With kind regards,
Romania EWRS team

From: Czech Republic

Dear colleagues,

National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) and Ministry of Health (MoH) published update on pneumonia cases in Wu-han, China for general public and travelers on NIPH and MoH webpage.

We closely monitoring the event in Wu-han, China.

In line with WHO recommendations, no travel or trade restrictions are recommended in Czech Republic. To our knowledge, there are no direct flight connections between Czech and Wuhan.

Zdenek Kysely
Czech EWRS Team

From: Norway

Dear colleagues,

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health informed the health authorities and other relevant institutions about the situation 6 January. Information for travellers was published on our web site the same day (last updated today):<https://www.fhi.no/sv/reiserad/oppdatering-om-sykdomsutbrudd/>. A news item has been published today on our website (in Norwegian):
<https://www.fhi.no/nyheter/2020/utbrudd-av-lungebetennelse-i-kina/>. No travel restrictions are recommended. We are closely monitoring the situation.

Best regards,
Norwegian EWRS team

From: Netherlands

Dear colleagues,

The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment is closely monitoring the event in Wuhan, China. On the 9th of January we informed the Public Health Services by our weekly early warning report. Publically available information is posted on the website (<https://www.rivm.nl/nieuws/nieuwe-longziekte-in-china>) . We informed the Dutch Coordination Centre for Travellers Health.

With kind regards,
Dutch EWRS team