



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

25 Jan 2020

All registered medical practitioners

**MOH CIRCULAR 19A/2020**

**REVISION OF SUSPECT CASE DEFINITION FOR 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)**

As of 25 January, 12.15am, 1,322 cases including 41 deaths had been reported globally. Of the 1,322 cases, 1,289 (including the 41 deaths) were reported in mainland China, with a large proportion in Wuhan city and Hubei province, with significant human-to-human transmission. Hence, recent travel to Wuhan city or Hubei province is assessed to constitute higher risk exposure which requires a high index of suspicion.

**UPDATE OF SUSPECT CASE DEFINITION**

2. In view of the above, we have **expanded** the suspect case criteria to the following:

- a) A person with clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of pneumonia or severe respiratory infection with breathlessness **AND** travel to mainland China within 14 days before onset of illness; or
- b) A person with an acute respiratory illness of any degree of severity who, within 14 days before onset of illness had:
  - a. **Been to Wuhan city or Hubei Province**, China; **OR**
  - b. **Been to a hospital in mainland China**; **OR**
  - c. Had close contact<sup>1</sup> with a case of 2019 novel coronavirus infection.

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<sup>1</sup> Close contact is defined as:

- Anyone who provided care for the patient, including a health care worker or family member, or who had other similarly close physical contact;
- Anyone who stayed (e.g. lived with, visited) at the same place as a case.

3. Please note that **transit only** in an airport located in mainland China is **not** considered as having travelled to mainland China.
4. An update on the local situation is in Annex A. Your continued vigilance against possible cases of 2019-nCoV is greatly appreciated.
5. For clarification on this circular, please email [MOH\\_INFO@moh.gov.sg](mailto:MOH_INFO@moh.gov.sg).



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**IMPORTANT**

***The case definition in this circular supersedes MOH CIRCULAR 19/2020 titled, "REVISION OF SUSPECT CASE DEFINITION FOR 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)" dated 25 January 2020 and MOH CIRCULAR 16/2020 titled, "FIRST CONFIRMED CASE OF 2019-NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) IN SINGAPORE AND CLARIFICATIONS TO MOH CIRCULAR 11/2020" dated 23 January 2020.***

## **ANNEX A**

### **SITUATION UPDATE**

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has on 25 January 2020 confirmed three imported cases of 2019-novel coronavirus infection (2019-nCoV) in Singapore.

2. The second patient is a 53 year-old female Chinese national from Wuhan who arrived in Singapore with her family on 21 January 2020. She was asymptomatic during the flight to Singapore and subsequently developed fever and cough later that day. On 22 January, she presented at TTSH Emergency Department and was classified as a suspect case upon assessment. She was immediately isolated and notified to MOH. The test results confirmed she is positive for the novel coronavirus on 24 January.

3. The third case is a 37 year-old male Chinese national from Wuhan, who is the son of the first confirmed case announced on 23 January. He was identified as a close contact of the first case, the 66 year-old male Chinese national from Wuhan, and isolated as a suspect case at SGH on 23 January as he was symptomatic. On 24 January, he was tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

4. Contact tracing has been initiated for the three confirmed cases. As of 25 January, 12pm, 106 close contacts (46 for Case 1, 57 for Case 2 and three additional contacts for Case 3) have been identified. The health status of all close contacts who are still in Singapore will be monitored closely. They will be quarantined and monitored for 14 days from their last exposure to the confirmed case. Those who develop symptoms will be conveyed to hospital in a dedicated ambulance for further assessment. All other contacts who have a low risk of being infected will be under active surveillance, and will be contacted daily to monitor their health status.