



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/5

MOH Circular No. 09/2020

16 Jan 2020

All registered TCM Practitioners

VIRAL PNEUMONIA OF UNKNOWN CAUSE IN WUHAN CITY, CHINA

The Ministry of Health has been monitoring the development of a cluster of severe pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan city, Hubei Province of China. As of 31 December 2019, the Wuhan Health Authorities had identified 27 cases. Seven of these cases were reported to be in critical condition while the remaining cases were stable.

2. Since the start of December, all reported cases had been admitted to hospitals in the city with presumptive viral pneumonia. The clinical manifestations include fever (predominant), shortness of breath, and bilateral lung infiltrative lesions. The majority of the cases were workers at the Huanan Seafood Market, a wholesale fresh seafood market, located in Jiangnan District, Wuhan city.

3. No sustained community transmission or infection in healthcare workers have been reported to date. The presumptive aetiological agent and mode of transmission have not been established. Further investigations by the Wuhan Health Authorities into the cause of infection, including virus typing, are in progress.

NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECT CASES

4. Cases who fulfil the following **suspect case criteria** should be referred to the nearest General Practitioner (GP) for further evaluation immediately:

- a) A person with clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of pneumonia or severe respiratory infection with breathlessness **AND** travel to or residence in Wuhan city within the last 14 days; or



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- b) A person with an acute respiratory illness of any degree of severity who, within 14 days before onset of illness, had close contact¹ with a pneumonia case of unknown cause linked to the Wuhan cluster.
5. However, in the event that the patient is unstable (e.g. breathless), please call the SCDF ambulance (995) and inform the ambulance operator of the patient's travel history.
6. Please note that **transit** in an airport located in Wuhan city is **not** considered as having travelled to Wuhan city.
7. Patients with mild respiratory symptoms and who do not meet the criteria for referral in paragraph 4 should be clinically managed as per usual practice. TCM practitioners should advise family members and other close contacts of suspect cases to be vigilant for symptoms of fever or shortness of breath, and to seek medical attention as soon as possible if unwell.
8. For clarification on this circular, please email MOH_INFO@moh.gov.sg.



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¹ 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.