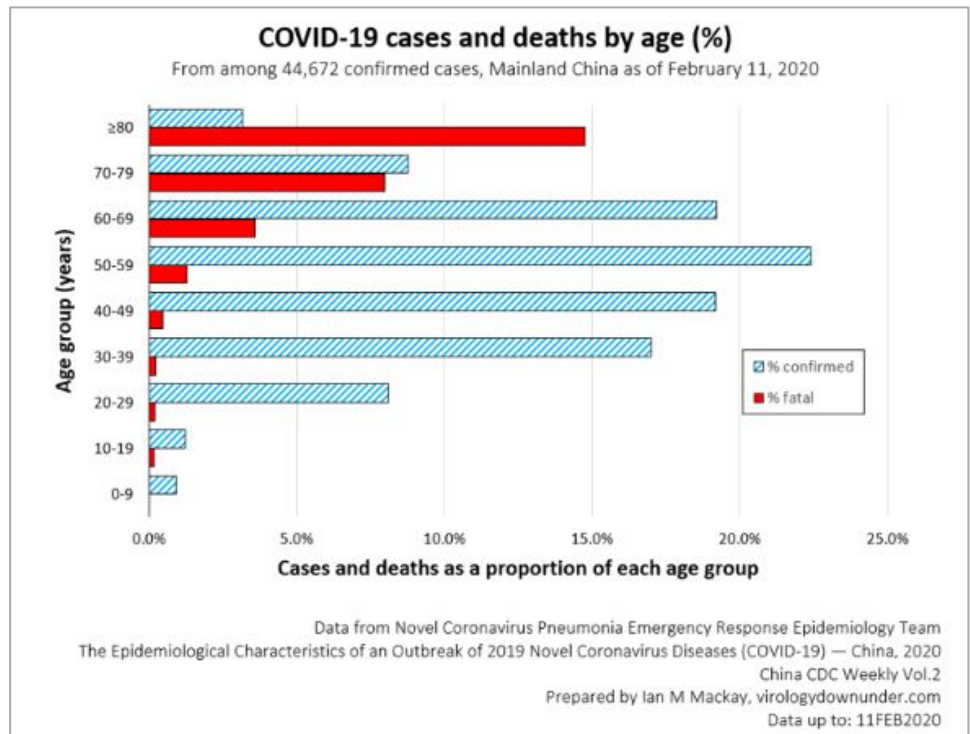


Monday 2 March 2020 0800 hours

Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team

Current Situation

- In China COVID-19 deaths are more prevalent in the elderly and those with co-morbidities. See diagram (right).
- New Zealand was the 48th country to have a COVID-19 presentation(s).
- Currently, Canterbury has no confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Practices are currently swabbing at least five suspect cases across Canterbury daily. The microbiology and infectious disease departments are very appreciative with the help you have provided in this regard.



- Going forward please continue to use our operational guidelines as to how we want you to deal with suspect cases. These guidelines will be updated at regular intervals, depending on the global and local situations and you will be advised of any changes. All guidelines, updates and resources including posters are available on the CPRG website: www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz.

COVID-19 PPE Allocation

- All general practices likely to assess suspect cases will receive shortly enough PPE to deal to five suspect cases. This PPE is to be used for suspect COVID-19 cases and not for anything else.
- As you begin using COVID-19 PPE supplies please re-order more from eoc@cprg.org.nz.
- Practices may wish to ensure that their routine use of masks for coughs and colds be allocated by reception staff rather than made available at hygiene stations. It is likely patients will take these for other purposes.

Current Recommendations

- You are encouraged to begin COVID-19 capacity plans, including:
 - Patient flow to ensure suspect cases are isolated from non-infected individuals (most places will want to assess patients in cars/carpark or designated part of the facility).
 - Signs are continually being adapted for practice use to direct patients. In the interim a 'STOP' poster has been created and is available as a Word document that can be customised to your practice.
 - Should this escalate, consider implementing booking systems to allow for same day triaged appointments and/or extended hours.
- An education video involving our hospital colleagues as well as local team will be available on our website soon.

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder
Canterbury Primary Response Group

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz