

National Health Advisory Update on national coronavirus response #6

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

Received this email directly

- 1) DHB Single Points of Contact
- 2) DHB Emergency Planners / Managers
- 3) Public Health Unit Managers
- 4) Healthline
- 5) Plunketline
- 6) GPNZ
- 7) RNZCGP
- 8) College of Dieticians

Forward required

- 4) Medical Officers of Health
- 5) Chief Medical Officer
- 6) Director of Nursing
- 7) Relevant clinical and non-clinical staff in your DHB
- 8) GP Liaison Officers
- 9) Communications Managers
- 10) Any other deemed necessary by your organisation

ACTIONS:

Forward internally within your organisation as per the 'attention of section' above
PHU Managers to please forward to Medical Officers of Health who may not be on the distribution list above.

Please forward **to your primary care contacts including: general practitioners, pharmacists and primary health organisations in your region.**

ADVISORY SUMMARY:

Declaration of a PHEIC by WHO

Early on 31 January 2020, the World Health Organization Emergency Committee declared 2019-nCoV to be a public health emergency of international concern.

The Emergency Committee has made temporary recommendations in seven key areas, summarised as:

- There is no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade; all countries should implement decisions that are evidence based;
- Support for countries;
- Accelerating vaccine development and research;
- Combating misinformation about the virus;
- Reviewing preparedness plans and resources needed;
- Sharing data and research with WHO and the world;
- All countries need to work together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

Request on media engagement

As has been communicated by Dr Ashley Bloomfield in his media statements, the Ministry of Health considers the likelihood of an imported case of 2019-nCoV being diagnosed in New Zealand to be high. It is expected that there will be very high levels of media interest.

We request that before any statements or announcements are made by DHBs or PHUs that they be sent in advance to the NHCC Public Information Manager at NHCC_PIM@health.govt.nz to ensure consistent messaging across the country.

Diagnostic testing in New Zealand

ESR has confirmed that a novel coronavirus diagnostic test is now available in New Zealand and testing began on Friday 31 January 2020.

The diagnostic testing service will accept respiratory samples from all suspected cases that meet the most recent Ministry of Health case definition and other cases where a precautionary approach is appropriate.

The Ministry of Health request that samples preferentially be sent to ESR as the National lab, and that clinicians and public health units notifying novel coronavirus do their best to fill out the case report form as thoroughly as possible. A specific case report form for novel coronavirus is being developed by ESR and should be available soon.

DHB Expressions of Interest requested

As you are aware, a number of people are being assisted to depart from Wuhan, China to return to New Zealand. There is a requirement for:

- health monitoring (daily temperature screening and asking about health and wellbeing).
- primary healthcare support (assist with any health conditions unrelated to 2019-nCoV). Expectations are for a GP and a nurse or nurse practitioner (exact requirements TBC) to be present at all times while on duty

This health support would be required for the duration of the isolation period with the health staff remaining on site (although not isolated), which is a minimum of 14 days. This health support could be a shared role between a number of clinicians. The Ministry of Health is putting out an expression of interest to DHBs for any staff that would be interested to assist with this activity. At this stage this is a planning process and exact composition of this support is yet to be decided, any formal national staffing request will follow. Please also pass this message on to your primary care colleagues, and email any expressions of interest to NHCC_ExternalLog@health.govt.nz