

NSW Health Novel Coronavirus Guidelines

NSW Department of Health advice:

- Children who have visited China in the past two weeks are requested not to attend school or childcare services until 14 days have lapsed from their date of departure from China.

Information obtained from NSW Health website 8.20am
29 January 2020

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

- Gymnastics NSW requests that gymnastics clubs adopt this advice for gymnastics classes.

What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

There is a new coronavirus affecting people which originated in the city of Wuhan, China. There is much more to learn about how it is spread, its severity, and other features associated with 2019-nCoV, and investigations are ongoing. At the moment, this coronavirus is called 'novel coronavirus 2019' or '2019-nCoV'.

Outbreaks of a novel coronavirus infections among people are always a public health concern. There is growing evidence that 2019-nCoV can spread from person to person in the community and in health care settings. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in several Asian and other countries including Australia. The situation is evolving rapidly.

What are the symptoms?

Most case-patients have had fever, cough, and shortness of breath, with further evidence of pneumonia (chest infection).

Further investigation is required to assess whether there are undetected asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic cases.

It is unknown how long symptoms take to present. At this stage, it is most likely between two and 14 days.

How is it spread?

Early reports indicated that most of the cases had prior contact with a seafood and live animal market, suggesting an animal source of the outbreak. However, more recently, human to human transmission has been reported.

Further investigation is underway to confirm and describe the mode of transmission from animal sources, and the risk of human-to-human transmission.

Human to human transmission is most likely to be through direct contact with infectious patients, by respiratory droplets and by fomites (contaminated objects and surfaces), as is seen with other coronavirus infections including SARS and MERS.

Who is at risk?

People who are living or travelling to affected areas or who have had contact with other cases may be at risk of catching the disease. People with underlying illnesses that make them more vulnerable to respiratory disease, including those with diabetes, chronic lung disease, pre-existing kidney failure, people with suppressed immune systems and the elderly may be at a higher risk.

Information obtained from NSW Health website 8.20am 29 January 2020

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/novel>

More Information

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/es/coronavirus-faqs.aspx>