
To:	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
From:	Dr Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health
Date:	30 January 2020
Title:	National Health Advisory: NEW Information: 2019-nCoV an infectious disease notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health from Thursday, 30 January 2020 UPDATED Information: Travellers recently returned from Hubei province

Please distribute the following information from the Ministry of Health to relevant staff in your organisation.

All public health alerts are available at www.rph.org.nz/publichealthalerts

1 **NEW information: 2019-nCoV is notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health**

From today (Thursday 30 January 2020) 'novel coronavirus capable of causing severe respiratory illness' will be added to Section B of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Health Act 1956. This will make 2019-nCoV an infectious disease notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health. The Ministry of Health appreciate that this is short notice, but Cabinet decisions required to make this change were only taken on Tuesday this week.

The latest information on 2019-nCoV and in particular the Interim Advice for Health Professionals which includes the case definitions is available on the Ministry of Health website

(<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>)

If you have any queries about the local arrangements for notification, please contact Regional Public Health on 04 570 902. If you have any policy queries about nCoV notification, please contact

ncovresponse@health.govt.nz

2. **UPDATED Information: Travellers recently returned from Hubei province**

Due to the evolving evidence and data on coronavirus transmission the Ministry of Health advise people who are at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to Wuhan or Hubei province is that they should **self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei province**. This means avoiding situations that could facilitate the transmission of the virus such as social gatherings and events where there is contact with others in particular, child care/pre-school centres, primary and secondary schools (including staff and students), aged care, healthcare facilities, prisons, public gatherings.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>