



HEALTH INFORMATION REGARDING SEVERE PNEUMONIA CASES IN WUHAN, CHINA

1. The Ministry of Health would like to share information on a cluster of severe pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. As of 3rd January 2020, the Chinese health authorities have reported 44 individuals with fever, shortness of breath, and other symptoms consistent with a respiratory infection known as pneumonia, the cause of which is still unknown.
2. In response to this information, the Ministry of Health has been in close contact with the World Health Organization (W.H.O), and other countries around the region, including China, to monitor and assess the situation. At present, there is limited information to determine the overall risk of this event and its potential for international spread.
3. While awaiting further information on the laboratory and epidemiological investigations, the Ministry of Health continues to maintain high vigilance to prevent, detect and respond to any severe acute respiratory infection, or other disease that has the potential to become a public health emergency of international concern. The national surveillance system routinely covers influenza, influenza-like illnesses, and all other severe acute respiratory infections. **At present, in Brunei Darussalam, there are no cases of severe acute respiratory infection linked to the event in Wuhan.**
4. W.H.O does not recommend any trade or travel restrictions to affected areas or any specific measures for travelers. Nonetheless, as a precautionary measure, members of the public are reminded to maintain the following good practices at all times:

- Avoid contact with sick live animals including poultry and birds, and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
 - Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
 - Observe good personal hygiene;
 - Practise frequent hand washing with soap (e.g. before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing);
 - Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
 - Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately; and
 - Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell.
5. The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the situation, working alongside W.H.O and neighbouring countries, and will endeavor to update the public as appropriate. For further information, members of the public can contact Talian Darussalam 123 or via our website www.moh.gov.bn.

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Reference : KK/PR/3