

ISSUE 12: IN-SERVICE BRIEF

Part 1 - COVID-19 A Global Pandemic

Timeline of World Health Organization (WHO) Covid-19 Responses¹

JAN 4 • JAN 10 JAN 22 • FEB 21 FEB 28 FEB 29 JAN 30 WHO reports WHO issues WHO issues a WHO Director-WHO Director-WHO raised the WHO continues on cluster of technical statement with General Dr General emphasized risk assessment of to advise against Tedros Adhanom enforcement of travel pneumonia guidance on evidence of window of the coronavirus cases in Wuhan, China. Ghebreyesus declared the 2019how to detect. human-human opportunity to from "high" to or trade restrictions test and manage contain the outbreak "very high" across transmission in on countries potential cases grappling with COVID-19 outbreaks. No reported Wuhan. nCov outbreak is "narrowing" and a Public Health that the international deaths. of the new virus **Emergency of** community needs to Recommend reinforcing epidemiological International ramp up efforts and Concern. finances. surveillance. WHO publishes Global number of WHO The total number of The Director WHO WHO called on reported COVID-19 spokesperson declared G20 leaders to Rational use of cases outside China General personal protective COVID-19 a Margaret Harris fight, unite, and cases surpassed has exceeded the warned 100.000. WHO ignite against COVID-19 as equipment pandemic. numbers in China. pandemic is said US has accelerating. for COVID-19. strategy is to potential to be interrupt human-tothe next epicenter total number of COVID-19 human transmission. amid a rapid acceleration of cases surpasses cases across the 500,000. FEB 29 MAR 11 MAR 16 MAR 23 MAR 24 MAR 26

Prevent the Spread



- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand rub (≥ 60%) or per your organization's recommended procedure.
- SARS-CoV-2 virus is spread via respiratory droplets by person to person close contact
 and from contact with contaminated surfaces, then touching the face (eyes, nose or
 mouth).
- SARS-CoV-2 is highly contagious and easily transmissible requiring social distancing of 6 feet/2 metres.

Two Primary Testing Types Available



Molecular Tests (Nucleic Acid Detection) Diagnose active SARS-CoV-2 infections



Antibody Tests (Serology)Detect immune response to SARS-CoV-2 exposure

Testing continues to be an important diagnostic and surveillance tool to help guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic until a vaccine is available.

REFERENCES

- $1. \ \ WHO\ Timeline COVID-19.\ https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/27-04-2020-who-timeline---covid-19.\ Accessed\ May\ 22,\ 2020.$
- 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Testing for COVID-19https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html, Accessed May 23, 2020.
- 3. Michelen M, Jones N, and Stavropoulou. In patients of COVID-19, what are the symptoms and clinical features of mild and moderate cases? Accessed at https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/in-patients-of-covid-19-what-are-the-symptoms-and-clinical-features-of-mild-and-moderate-case/ on May 6, 2020.

Please Note: Given the novelty of this coronavirus, recommendations from the source references are interim and advisory in nature and are based on current knowledge of the situation. Always ensure compliance with your local public health authorities regulations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Symptoms:2

- Fever or chills
- Dry cough
- Difficulty in breathing or shortness in breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nasal congestion or runny nose
- Loss of taste or smell (acutely)
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- A rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or
 toes

Top priorities for COVID-19 testing are:³

a Highest priority (those with symptoms)

- i. Hospitalized patients with symptoms
- ii. Healthcare workers with symptoms
- iii. Workers in congregated work settings with symptoms
- iv. First responders with symptoms
- v. Residents of long-term care or group homes with symptoms
- vi. Prisoners and residents of shelters

b Priority for testing

- i. Persons with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
- ii. Persons without symptoms prioritized by health departments or clinicians as part of recommended screening, monitoring or surveillance plans

₹ Please read InTouch Issue 12: Part 1 – COVID-19 a Global Pandemic for more information on this topic.