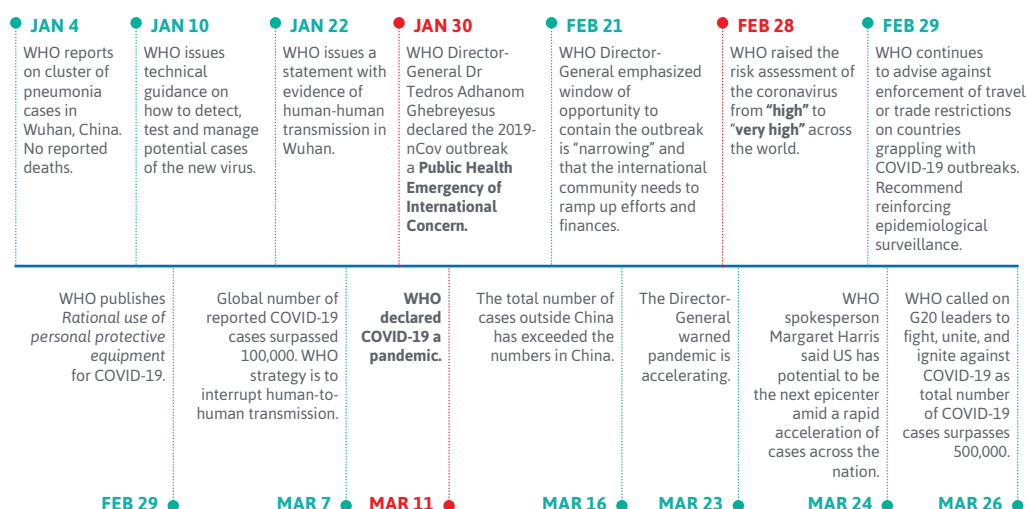


ISSUE 12: IN-SERVICE BRIEF

Part 1 - COVID-19 A Global Pandemic

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



Prevent the Spread



- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand rub ($\geq 60\%$) 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

- WHO Timeline - COVID-19. <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/27-04-2020-who-timeline---covid-19>. Accessed May 22, 2020.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Testing for COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>. Accessed May 23, 2020.
- 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

- Highest priority (those with symptoms)**
 - Hospitalized patients with symptoms
 - Healthcare workers with symptoms
 - Workers in congregated work settings with symptoms
 - First responders with symptoms
 - Residents of long-term care or group homes with symptoms
 - Prisoners and residents of shelters

- Priority for testing**
 - Persons with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
 - 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.