



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

4 Feb 2020

All registered medical practitioners

**MOH CIRCULAR 29/2020**

**REVISION OF SUSPECT CASE DEFINITION FOR 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)**

As of 4 February 1500H, 20,672 cases including 427 deaths had been reported globally. Of the 20,672 cases, 20,476 (including 425 deaths) were reported in mainland China, with a large proportion in Wuhan city and Hubei province. Other areas in mainland China had recently started to experience significant human-to-human transmission, such as Zhejiang province, including Hangzhou city. Hence, in addition to Hubei province, recent travel to Zhejiang province, including Hangzhou city, is assessed to constitute higher risk exposure than other parts of China which requires a high index of suspicion.

2. As of 4 February 2020, the Ministry of Health has confirmed 24 cases of 2019-novel coronavirus infection (2019-nCoV) in Singapore. There were 20 imported cases, three local cases infected through contact with a tour group from China during their work (comprising two salespersons and a tour guide), and a foreign domestic worker who worked for one of the local cases.

**UPDATE OF SUSPECT CASE DEFINITION**

3. In view of the above, we have **expanded** the suspect case criteria to the following:

- a) A person with clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of pneumonia or severe respiratory infection with breathlessness **AND** travel to mainland China within 14 days before onset of illness; or
- b) A person with an acute respiratory illness of any degree of severity who, within 14 days before onset of illness had:
  - i. Been to Hubei Province (including Wuhan city) or **Zhejiang Province (including Hangzhou city)**, China; **OR**

- ii. Been to a hospital in mainland China; OR
- iii. Had close contact<sup>1</sup> with a case of 2019 novel coronavirus infection; **OR**
- iv. Had frequent or close contact during work<sup>2</sup> with recent travellers from mainland China (travel history in the last 14 days).

3. Please note that **transit only** in an airport located in mainland China is **not** considered as having travelled to mainland China.

4. Your continued vigilance against possible cases of 2019-nCoV is greatly appreciated.

5. For clarification on this circular, please email [MOH\\_INFO@moh.gov.sg](mailto:MOH_INFO@moh.gov.sg).



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**IMPORTANT**

***The case definition in this circular supersedes MOH CIRCULAR 19A/2020 titled, "REVISION OF SUSPECT CASE DEFINITION FOR 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)" dated 25 January 2020***

<sup>1</sup> Close contact is defined as:

- Anyone who provided care for the patient, including a health care worker or family member, or who had other similarly close physical contact;
- Anyone who stayed (e.g. household members) at the same place as a case.

<sup>2</sup> Persons who attended business meetings/discussions, frontline staff in hospitality and tourism (e.g. hotels, shops, tours) with regular dealings with travellers from mainland China.



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