

## 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) WUHAN CORONAVIRUS

### General information

A novel Coronavirus, (novel meaning a new strain of a virus that has not been previously identified in humans), currently designated 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), was first identified in China. It has caused severe illness and death in China and has spread to several other countries.

2019-nCoV was identified in December 2019 in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Most people infected with 2019-nCoV developed severe acute respiratory illness (pneumonia) with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. There have been several reported deaths.

Investigators are trying to determine the source of 2019-nCoV, and there is a link to a large wholesale fish and live animal market in Wuhan City. The virus has moved to other countries via travellers. There have been several reported cases around the world, including Australia.

### Transmission & Symptoms

The 2019-nCoV appears to spread from close, person-to-person contact.

These viruses may also spread by touching contaminated objects or surfaces and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

Current symptoms reported for patients with 2019-nCoV have included mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms may include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

At this time, it seems that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. To date, cases have been linked with recent travel to Wuhan China, or direct contact with those who have recently travelled there.

## Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommend a range of control measures be implemented to minimise the spread of Coronavirus, including hand hygiene, use of PPE and effective cleaning methods.

Hand hygiene recommendations include the use of soapy water and alcohol based hand rubs, to minimise the risk of transmission via person-to-person contact.

In regards to cleaning of environmental surfaces, the use of detergent and water is recommended for cleaning all surfaces, followed by commonly used hospital disinfectants, such as Sodium hypochlorite.

In light of the recent risks presented by the Coronavirus, it is important to remember that all products containing sodium hypochlorite are subject to natural loss in activity over time. It is considered best practice for users of chlorinated products to test the concentration of the product regularly to within manufacturer's guidelines.

For advice about which sodium hypochlorite based products are recommended, please contact your local Dominant Account Manager.

In addition, the WHO recommend the use of "Safe routine procedures" for laundry, food service utensils and medical waste.

For specific advice on "safe routine procedures", we recommend reviewing the detailed recommendations in the WHO guidance article, entitled "Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected" (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>)



Richard Surynt  
Regulatory & Compliance Officer  
January 2020

