



January 27, 2020

Dear Parents,

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) Coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities first identified the new virus, which has resulted in 2,079 confirmed human infections in China (as of January 26, 2020), with 80 deaths reported.

As quoted in the New York Times, China said on Saturday, January 25, that it would suspend all tour groups and the sale of flight and hotel packages for its citizens headed overseas, starting on Monday, January 27. These actions are taking place to help stop the spread of the virus.

The Kenyan Ministry of Health has heightened surveillance at all points of entry. Passengers entering Kenya from China will undergo thorough screening for a new flu-like virus before being allowed into the country.

What are Coronaviruses?

Corona is a large group of viruses that can infect both humans and animals with cold-related diseases. The intensity of infection ranges from the Common Cold to Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The Kenyan Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, is working on finding out more about this virus.

Modes of transmission

- Direct contact with infected patients
- Droplets during the patient's coughing/sneezing
- Contact with patients' stools, then directly touching the nose, mouth or eyes

Signs and symptoms of the new Coronavirus infection

- Cough
- Fever
- Pneumonia
- Shortness of breath
- In some cases vomiting
- In some cases diarrhea

PASSION | CREATIVITY | AMBITION



- In advanced cases, serious complications may include Severe Pneumonia and Renal (kidney) failure

Possible methods of prevention

- Take steps to prevent infection with respiratory germs
- Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections
- Perform frequent handwashing or hand disinfection, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment
- Individuals with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette, including:
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
 - Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use
 - Perform hand hygiene (e.g., handwashing with soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.
- Avoid close contact with live or dead farm or wild animals
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs

Is there a Treatment?

There is no treatment until now. Supportive medical care is provided to help relieve the acuteness of the symptoms and control complications.

Is there a Vaccine?

So far, there is no vaccine.

Make every effort to inform the nearest medical clinic by telephone in advance of your visit about your symptoms if you think you may have been exposed or have traveled to an “at-risk” area.

Please visit the CDC website for more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Regards,

Judy Mbithe