

Ref: PHD/DCS/C11/2013

Date: 7 May, 2013

Alert

**To All Physician in respiratory units, infectious diseases units and ICU
in governmental and private hospitals**


**Detection, reporting and investigation of suspected novel coronavirus
infection**

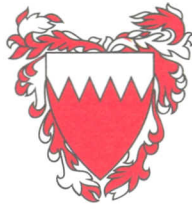
In reference to the above subject, and in view of the recent reported increased confirmed cases in the region, we would like you to report all suspected novel coronavirus infection immediately on the communicable hotline (66399868) as per the attached guideline for case definition, investigation and management.

For more information you can contact the Diseases Control Section at Public Health Directorate – Communicable Diseases Group on 17279214, Fax 17279268 or Email: PHD-DCS@health.gov.bh

We are looking forward for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,


Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma
Assistant Undersecretary
for Primary Healthcare and Public Health



Guideline for case detection and investigation of suspected novel coronavirus

Case Detection

The following persons should be evaluated epidemiologically and tested for novel coronavirus:

1. A person with an acute respiratory infection, which may include history of fever and cough and indications of pulmonary parenchymal disease (e.g. pneumonia or the acute respiratory distress syndrome [ARDS]), based on clinical or radiological evidence of consolidation, who requires admission to hospital.

AND any of the following:

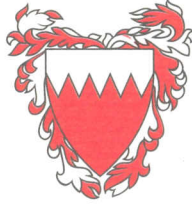
- The disease occurs as part of a cluster¹ that occurs within a 10-day period , without regard to place of residence or history of travel, unless another aetiology has been identified.²
 - The disease occurs in a health care worker who has been working in an environment where patients with severe acute respiratory infections are being cared for, particularly patients requiring intensive care, without regard to place of residence or history of travel, unless another aetiology has been identified².
 - Develops an unexpectedly severe clinical course despite appropriate treatment, without regard to place of residence or history of travel, *even if another aetiology has been identified*, if that alternate aetiology does not fully explain the presentation or clinical course of the patient.
2. A person with an acute respiratory illness of any degree of severity who, within 10 days before onset of illness, had close contact³ with a confirmed or probable case of novel coronavirus infection, while the case was ill.

¹ A “cluster” is defined as two or more persons with onset of symptoms within the same 10-day period and who are associated with a specific setting, such as a classroom, workplace, household, extended family, hospital, other residential institution, military barracks or recreational camp.

² Testing should be according to local guidance for management of community-acquired pneumonia. Examples of other aetiologies include Streptococcus pneumoniae, Haemophilus influenzae type B, Legionella pneumophila, other recognized primary bacterial pneumonias, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus.

³ 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 at the same place (e.g. lived with, visited) as a probable or confirmed case while the case was ill.



Reporting

- Health care providers should report all cases meeting the confirmed or probable case definition immediately by telephone to public health directorate diseases control section on the communicable diseases hotline 66399868 followed by written reporting within 24 hours.
- National International Health Regulations(IHR) focal point will report all probable and confirmed cases within 24 hours of classification, through the Regional Contact Point for IHR at the appropriate WHO Regional Office.

Sample collection:

- The required sample is combined nose/throat swab using the specific swab for Influenza sampling. This swab and the virus transport media can be requested from public health laboratory on 17282288.
- The sample should be transported in on cold chain box as soon as possible to public health laboratory.
- Samples will be checked for other respiratory viruses and send to Oman regional reference laboratory for coronavirus testing.

Feedback:

Result will be communicated with the authorities and the treating physician by Disease Control Section staff .

For more enquiries you can contact the Diseases Control Section at Public Health Directorate – Communicable Diseases Group on 17279214, Fax 17279268 or Email: PHD-DCS@health.gov.bh

Prepared by:

Communicable Diseases Group

Diseases Control Section

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