



सत्यमेव जयते

**प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव**, पद्म श्री

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,  
एफएएचए, एफएएमएस, एफएनएएस, एफएएससी, एफ.एन.ए., डी.एस.सी.

**सचिव, भारत सरकार**

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय एवं  
महानिदेशक, आई सी एम आर

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Government of India  
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D.O. No. VIR/4/2020/ECD-I  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

**Subject: Regarding collection of samples for 2019 novel coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak**

The Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) Network

Dear All,

In view of the 2019 novel coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak, you are requested to adhere to the following guidelines for collection of samples.

1. For persons with travel history to the Wuhan province in China after 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020, respiratory samples (nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab) and blood samples should be collected from all the persons whether symptomatic or asymptomatic.
2. For travel history to the rest of China, respiratory and blood samples will be collected only from symptomatic cases.

Based on my conversation with the health secretary today, I have requested the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to clarify the above mentioned guidelines for collection of samples from people with travel history to China.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

With best Regards

Yours sincerely

(Prof. Balram Bhargava)



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India

# Novel Coronavirus

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q) What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus ?**

Ans- 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is a new virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. It is named novel as it has not been previously identified.

**Q) What is the source of 2019 Novel Coronavirus ?**

Ans- At present exact source of infection of 2019 novel Corona virus has not been identified. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals. Initially, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to large seafood and animal market, suggesting the virus likely emerged from an animal source.

**Q) What are the initial symptoms of Novel Coronavirus ?**

Ans- Current symptoms reported for patients with 2019-nCoV include acute onset of fever, cough, and difficulty in breathing.



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Call Centre/Helpline for any technical query on #nCoV



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# Novel Coronavirus

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q) How does the virus spread ?**

**Ans-** The specific modes of transmission of the virus is not clear yet since it is a novel virus. This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person. It's not clear yet how easily 2019-nCoV spreads from person-to-person. It is thought to have happened mainly when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread.

**Q) What is Govt doing about 2019-nCoV ?**

**Ans-** A 24\*7 helpline has been setup by the Govt at NCDC, New Delhi to answer all queries regarding the disease. The Govt is closely monitoring the situation and has ascertained the level of preparedness in every State of India. As this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation the Govt will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available.

**Q) Is there a vaccine to get protection from 2019 novel Corona Virus ?**

**Ans-** Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against 2019- novel Corona Virus.



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# Novel Coronavirus

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q) How can I help protect myself ?**

**Ans-** There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- All non-essential travel to China or affected countries\* to be avoided.
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Practice frequent hand washing with soap.
- Cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing.

\*The list of affected countries is available on WHO website ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)) and would be updated time to time.

**Q) What should I do if I had close contact with someone who is a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV?**

**Ans-** Self monitor your health starting from the day of last contact with such a case and continue for 28 days. Watch for the development of acute onset of signs and symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing

If you observe any of the above symptoms visit the nearest health facility for further advice and treatment. Further you must furnish the details of exposure of such patient to your health care worker .



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# Novel Coronavirus

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q) Is it safe to travel to Wuhan, China or other countries where 2019-nCoV 2019 cases have occurred?

Ans- All nonessential travel to China is to be avoided.

If the travel is unavoidable- At all times follow the simple public health measures

- Observe good personal hygiene
- Monitor your health closely
- Seek medical attention promptly if you feel sick
- If you feel sick during travel, inform airline crew about your illness and seek mask from the airline crew
- For further details kindly check Travel advisory issued by MoHFW, Gov available on website ( [www.mohfw.gov.in](http://www.mohfw.gov.in))

Q) What are the treatments ?

Ans- There is no specific antiviral treatment available for 2019- novel Corona Virus infection. People infected with 2019- novel Corona Virus should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.



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A Control Room at National level has been  
setup to address queries related to #nCoV.

May reach this number for any guidance,  
support and technical queries.