

Q&A

What are Coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses is a common virus family known to cause a range of diseases ranging from common colds to severe pneumonia.

What is the Novel (new) CORONA virus?

This virus is a new type of Coronavirus that has not previously been found in humans. The new virus in the People's Republic of China is called (COVID-19). Other known types of Corona virus include MERS-Coronavirus and SARS-Coronavirus.

What is the current situation of the new Coronavirus (COVID-19) ?

The first case of this virus was reported on December 31, 2019 in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China. As of February 24th, 2020, 77,150 cases have been reported in China, including 2,495 deaths in China, In addition cases were reported outside China in territories/ countries shown in the following table:

China	Thailand	Canada
South Korea	United States of America	Russian Federation
Iran	Germany	Spain
Japan	France	Belgium
Taiwan	The United Kingdom	Finland
Hong Kong	United Arab Emirates	Egypt
Macau	Italy	Iraq
Singapore	Nepal	Kuwait
Malaysia	Sri Lanka	Bahrain
Cambodia	India	Lebanon
Australia	Viet Nam	Palestine

(Please keep following the updates as it become available regarding the list of the affected countries)

To date, no cases of the new virus have been reported in Oman.

Can humans be infected with a new coronavirus from an animal source?

Yes, evidence has shown that the new coronavirus infection is caused by contact with animals infected with the virus. Epidemiological investigations are still under way to identify the animal carrier of the new coronavirus in China (COVID-19), and the claim that bats or snakes are the animal source of the virus are scientific hypotheses that are still under study and have not yet been conclusively proven or denied.

What are the symptoms of the new Coronavirus?

The most common symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. In the most severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

Can the new coronavirus (COVID-19) be transmitted from one person to another?

Yes, the transmission of the new CORONA virus from one person to another has been demonstrated by close contact and exposure to respiratory spray for an infected person, as in the context of family, workplace or in health-care centers, for example. Also by exposing, the surfaces contaminated with the spray of the infected person if not cleaned.

Are health care workers at risk of contracting the new Corona virus?

Yes, transmissions of infection have been recorded among health-care workers because they are more close to patients than the public, so they recommend the use of appropriate personal infection prevention and control measures.

Is there a vaccine against the new CORONA virus?

There is no effective vaccine yet. In the event of a new disease, no vaccine is available unless it is first manufactured. It may take several years before a vaccine against the virus can be made. The seasonal influenza vaccine is ineffective against the new coronavirus because the virus belongs to a different viral family not covered by the seasonal influenza vaccine.

Is there a cure for the new Corona virus?

There is no specific antiviral drugs for the disease caused by the new Coronavirus. However, many of its symptoms can be treated depending on the patient's clinical condition. Supportive care for people infected can be very effective. The reports of the success of treatment for some cases using drugs are in fact drugs that have proven effective in the treatment of other known viral diseases and are used to treat the emerging virus for medical purposes, but have not yet proven to be effective and this evidence needs extensive studies in the future. .

What can be done to protect against the new Corona virus?

To reduce risk and prevent the new Corona virus infection, please apply the following procedures:

- ✓ Avoid direct contact with animals (live or dead) or presence in animal trading markets in China.
- ✓ Avoid direct contact with anyone with symptoms of a cold or respiratory infection.
- ✓ Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing with tissue or flexed elbow.
- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand rub.
- ✓ Make sure that animal products are cooked well before eating them.

For travelers to areas where the new Corona virus has appeared

Follow the above precautions. In addition, stay at home and avoid crowded places as much as possible, using mask when in a crowded place, and go to the nearest healthcare institution in case of presence of any of the symptoms mentioned.

Are there travel restrictions on China or areas where the new Corona virus has appeared?

In view of evolving outbreak and based on a review of the risk assessment, it is advisable not to travel to China, Iran, South Korea, Japan and Singapore unless it is absolutely necessary. Moreover, the Public Authority for Civil Aviation announced the suspension of civil aviation flights to China from February 2nd, 2020 until further notice. (Please keep following the updates as it become available).

For those coming from the People's Republic of China within the past 14 days or if you are in direct contact with a person who has visited China and suffer from chest infection and you have the following symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, visit the airport health control clinic directly or visit the nearest health center while you are in Oman and report your travel history. Those who are coming within 14 days from exit from China will be placed on home/institutional quarantine.

What is the date of start of quarantine for new countries added on 22/2/2020 (South Korea, Japan and Singapore)?

Quarantine will be applied for passengers who enter the country through points of entry from 22nd February 2020, which is the date of notification, by Ministry Of Health.

Should I be in quarantine if I returned before 22/2/2020 from these countries?

If you have returned from South Korea, Japan or Singapore prior to 22/2/2020 there is no need for quarantine. However if you develop fever / cough / breathlessness please contact nearest health institution and convey the travel history.

What about quarantine for those coming from Iran as it was added in 22/2/2020?

If you returned from Iran (Exited from Iran) after 9th February 2020 AND you have visited Qum province you are advised to be on self-home quarantine for a period of 14 days from the date of exit from Iran. Please contact nearest Health care facility if you develop symptoms.

Is it recommended not to import products from affected countries through online shopping sites?

Coronavirus has not been confirmed to be transmitted through non-animal products, and the time period from shipment to arrival exceeds the lifetime of the virus's survival outside the human body or infected animal.

Is it advisable not to visit Chinese commercial complexes in Oman?

There are no barriers to visiting Chinese commercial complexes as there has been no case of new Corona virus among workers in these places so far, and recent arrivals from China will have been evaluated while crossing the points of entry to the country, however it is recommended to avoid being in crowded places as much as possible and in the case of being in one of these places please follow preventive measures and healthy habits such as avoid direct contact with anyone with symptoms of a cold or respiratory infection, cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing with tissue or flexed elbow, wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand rub.

Where can I get more information about the new CORONA virus? For more information on the new Corona virus (COVID-19), please contact the call center on 24441999 and follow information from the Ministry of Health cited in the national press.