



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
Crisis management and preparedness in health

Luxembourg, 04 February 2020

Health Security Committee

Summary

Outbreak of acute respiratory syndrome associated with a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Chair: Wolfgang Philipp, SANTE C3

Audio participants: AT; BE; BG; CZ; DE; DK; EL; EE; ES; FI; FR; HR; HU; IE; IS; IT; LT; LU; MT; NL; NO; RO; PL; PT; SE; SI; DG SANTE, DG RTD, DG ECHO, DG DEVCO, DG HR MS, ECDC, EEAS, WHO HQ; UK

Key Conclusions

1. Travel advice, Points of Entry measures: Countries will continue sharing information on travel advice and the management of points of entry. The Commission will follow up on a request from countries regarding airline practices including the use of passenger locator information in China. Countries and the Commission are to consider whether these issues necessitate higher political level consideration for common approaches.
2. Medical countermeasures and personal protective equipment (PPE): Countries will update the Commission on information they have provided on preparedness, including needs for personal protective equipment. The Commission reminded countries of the procedures agreed in the HSC to enable the exchange of medical countermeasures between countries via the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS). The Commission is ready to further support countries with the procurement of medical countermeasures if needed. The Commission asked ECDC to prepare an assessment of PPE needs.
3. Laboratories: Countries reported that diagnostic capacities are in place, and several countries have begun rolling out testing and the use of RTPCR protocols. The Commission reiterated laboratory support from the Joint Action SHARP and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), if needed.
4. Preparedness planning: Some countries provided a short overview of the preparedness planning and updates currently ongoing. The limited outbreak and epidemiological information surrounding 2019-nCoV continues to remain a challenge. The ECDC is expected to provide an updated risk assessment tomorrow, 05/02. Communication also remains important in this area and the Commission highlighted that the Health Security

Committee's Communicators' Network has been convened on 05/02, to coordinate and exchange information on communication with the public.

5. Clinical networks & EU information gathering: The Commission reiterated the support available from the PREPARE consortium – an EU funded network for harmonized large-scale clinical research studies in infectious diseases – on the clinical treatment protocols of the 2019-nCoV. In addition, the ECDC will also begin collaborating with concerned countries on epidemiological assessment relating to repatriated cases.