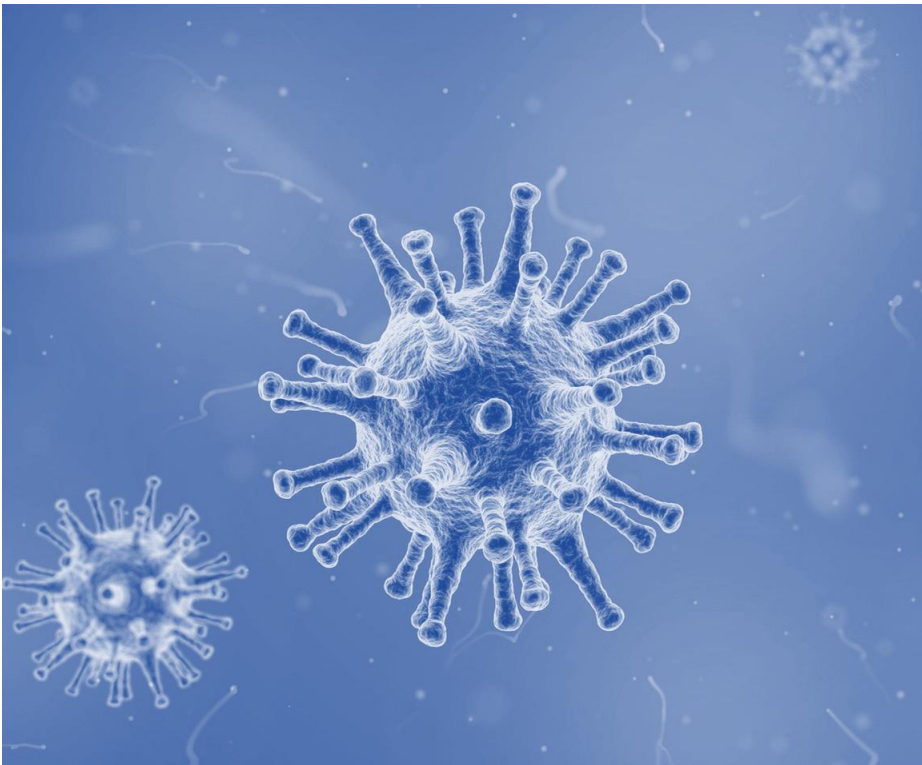


USEFUL INFORMATION ON 2019-NCOV THE NEW CORONAVIRUS STRAIN



Last Update 06/03/2020

Prevention

The first line of defense against infections is the careful hand hygiene.

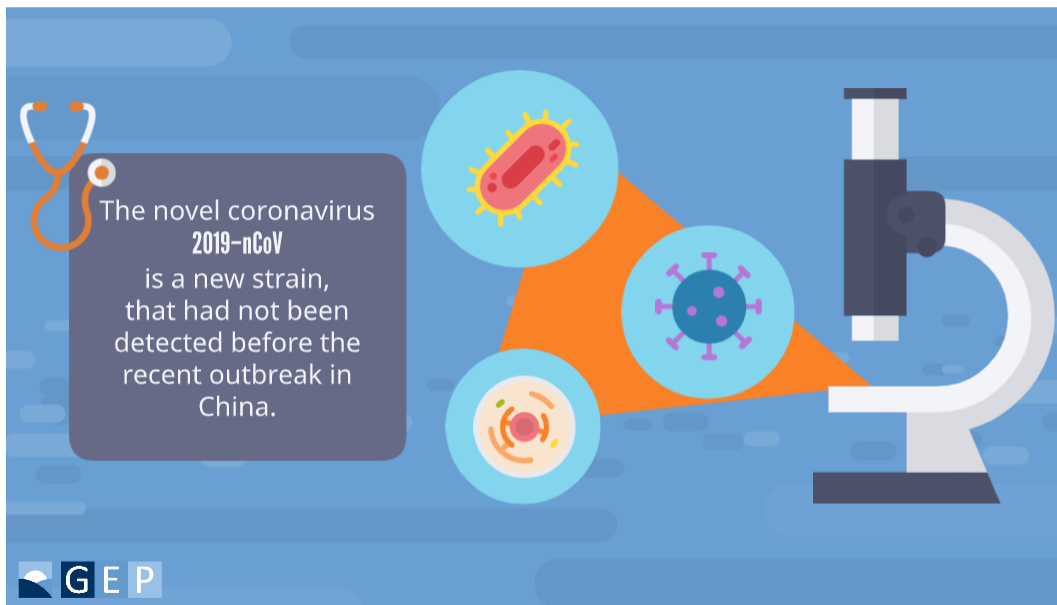
Frequent hands washing with soap and water is therefore recommended. If hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol solution (e.g. alcohol 70°C) may be used alternatively. At any case, the use of gloves doesn't replace hands washing.

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Introduction

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause disease both in animals and humans. Following a cluster of pneumonia cases in the city of Wuhan in China, the Chinese health authorities reported the novel coronavirus strain, named 2019-nCoV.

From 31st of December 2019 to 6th of March 2020, a total of 98.171 laboratory confirmed cases of the new coronavirus strain were reported, including 3.385 deaths. Most cases are in China (80.524), but several cases have been reported in European and not only countries.



Transmission

Most likely, the initial transmission to humans came from an animal in a market in China. Based on available epidemiological data, it appears that the new coronavirus is transmitted from human to human through droplets excreted from a diseased person, by coughing or sneezing, or by direct or indirect contact with respiratory secretions, through infected hands.

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The new coronavirus is transmitted from person to person through droplets that are excreted when the patient coughs or sneezes.



It is not yet known for how long 2019-nCoV is able to survive on the surfaces, nevertheless according to the latest data, it seems that it may survive for a few hours. Also, the incubation period, meaning the time between infection and the onset of symptoms, has not been fully determined yet and is roughly estimated to 2-14 days, with an average of about 5 days.

Symptoms

If a person gets infected by the virus, the symptoms may vary from mild, such as those of the common cold, fever, cough, and sore throat, to very serious, such as pneumonia or shortness of breath, while rarely may lead to death. Most vulnerable to the emergence of serious disease are the elderly and people with underlying diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

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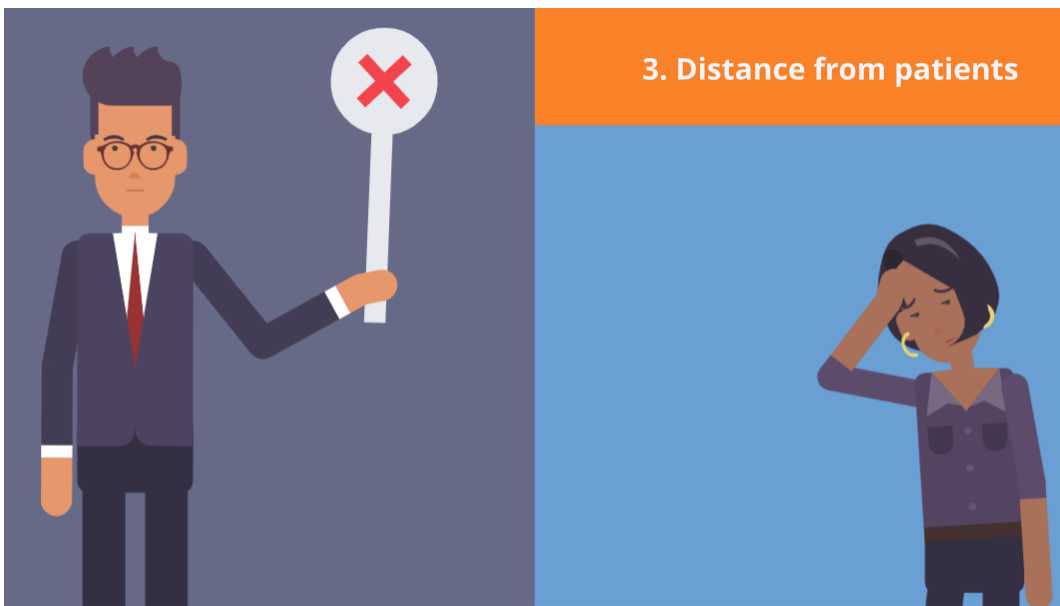
Prevention

The first line of defense against infections is the careful hand hygiene. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is therefore recommended. If the hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol solution (e.g. alcohol 70 ° C) may be alternatively used. At any case, the use of gloves doesn't replace the hand washing.

Also, strict compliance with hygiene measures is another important preventive mean. Covering the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and avoiding contact with the mouth, nose, or eyes prevents germs from spreading. If there are patients with respiratory symptoms, close contact within 1-2 meters should be avoided.



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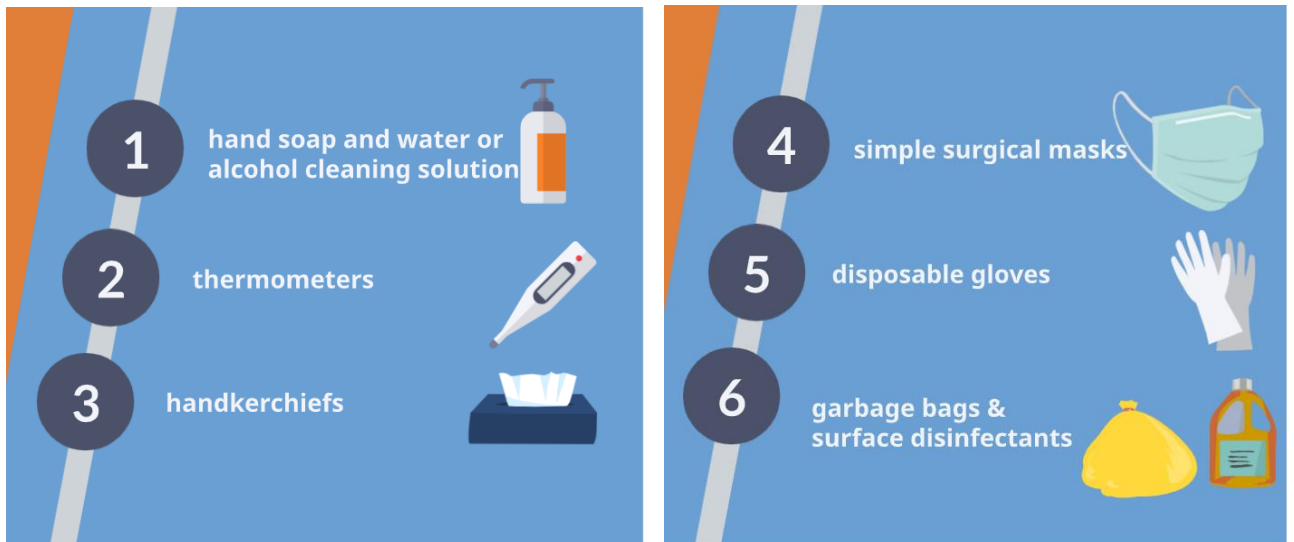


At the workplace, good ventilation is recommended as well as availability of the following:

- hand soap and water or alcohol cleaning solution
- thermometers
- handkerchiefs
- simple surgical masks
- disposable gloves

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- garbage bags
- surface disinfectants



The role of the cleaning personnel is very important as it helps to prevent virus transmission. Frequent cleaning of surfaces, such as door handles, toiletries, etc., is required, as well as on the spot cleaning when surfaces are contaminated with biological fluids. Cleaning personnel is advised to use disposable masks, gloves and aprons when cleaning a space that a patient/suspected case has stayed, should not touch the mouth, nose or eyes while working, and should not smoke or eat.

Handling a suspicious virus case in the workplace

If a virus case is suspected, instructions given by the National Public Health Organization (EODY), which is the successor of the pre-existing Center of Disease Control and Prevention (KELPNO), should be strictly followed.

However, timely planning and awareness of employees will contribute to the organized management of a suspected case and to maintaining the smooth running of the business.

If an employee fulfills the criteria for defining new coronavirus infection case, then the site manager should immediately call EODY at 210 5212000 and 210 5212054 (24 hours a day) to report the suspected case and receive instructions on how to deal with it. It is important that GEP Occupational Doctor who visits the facility (2109405866) is also briefed so that additional precautionary measures may be given.

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Based on the latest instructions, the employee is advised to stay in his/her workplace (eg in his/her office space). The air conditioning system may remain open; however, the door should be closed. An employee with symptoms of respiratory infection should be given a simple surgical mask and tissues immediately. If there is no significant reason, other employees should not be allowed to enter the specific area.

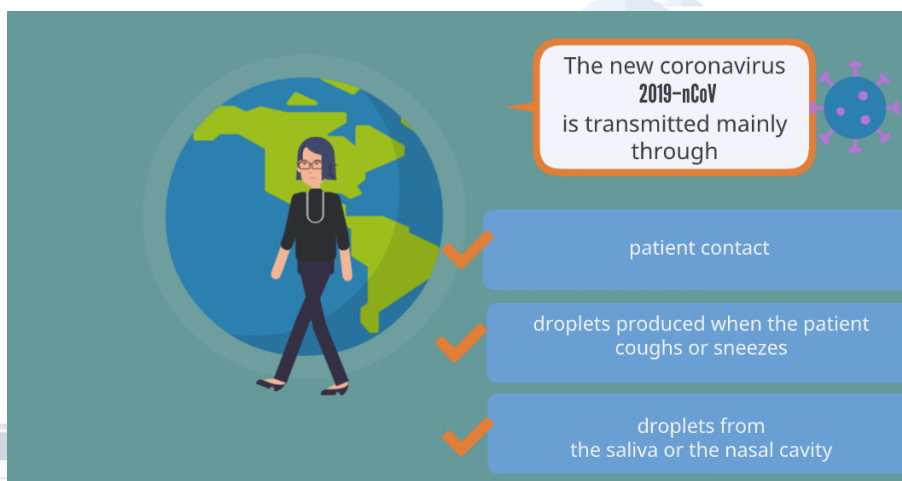
After the employee has left the room, the surfaces should be cleaned twice (double cleaning) with an antiviral disinfectant. According to the latest guidelines from EODY, all potentially contaminated surfaces should be cleaned with fresh 5.25% household bleach solution, at a ratio of 1-part bleach / 49 parts water, remaining on the surface for 15-30 minutes and then it will be rinsed with water. Metal surfaces should be cleaned with 70% alcohol, while surfaces visibly contaminated with blood or other biological liquids should be cleaned with fresh 5.25% household bleach solution, 1: 4, remaining on the surface for 10 minutes and then it will be rinsed with water.

In the framework of the employee's return to work following absenteeism related to a suspected, probable or confirmed case of the new Coronavirus disease, the Occupational Doctor should be informed accordingly in order to reassess his/her ability to work.

Up until now, there is no vaccine against the new coronavirus.

Travel Restrictions

The risk for the traveler is considered moderate, however, it is recommended that employees should avoid traveling to areas with documented continued transmission of the new coronavirus, if not necessary.



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However, if an employee travels in areas with documented continuous transmission, he/she must frequently wash his/her hands with soap and water, avoid contact with patients and avoid contact with alive or dead animals, animals' markets and products of animal origin, such as non-cooked meat.

Upon his return journey from an area with documented continued transmission of the new coronavirus, the person's health should be monitored for 14 days, and if he/she develops symptoms, such as fever or difficulty breathing or coughing, 14 days after returning, he/she should stay at home and seek immediate medical care, mentioning his/her recent trip or contact EODY.



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