



A Maharatna Company

**NTPC LIMITED**  
**Corporate Medical Cell**

## **Health Advisory of Novel Coronavirus**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), GoI is closely monitoring the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed “2019-nCoV”) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. As 25th January 2020, a total of 1287 cases and 41 deaths were reported in 29 provinces (districts and cities) of China. In addition, 28 cases have been confirmed outside Chinese mainland: 5 cases in Hong Kong, 2 cases in Macao, 3 cases in Taiwan, 4 cases in Thailand (2 cases cured), 2 cases in Japan (1 case cured), 2 cases in South Korea, 2 cases in the United States, 2 cases in Vietnam, 3 cases in Singapore, 1 case in Nepal and 2 cases in France.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS and SARS. Initially, many cases reported in the outbreak in Wuhan, China had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, with increased number of cases being reported without any history of exposure to animal markets, suggests person-to-person transmission might be occurring. These guidelines have been developed based on what currently is known about the disease and guidance from WHO. These are subject to change as additional information becomes available at a short notice.

WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travelers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, the travelers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE OF CORONAVIRUS**

During previous outbreaks due to other coronavirus (Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)), human to human transmission occurred through droplets, contact and fomites, suggesting that the transmission mode of the 2019-nCoV can be similar. The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following: •

- i. Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- ii. Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- iii. Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- iv. People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- v. Within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.