

Please find below an update about the novel coronavirus in Wuhan-China.

1. Epidemiology update from Wuhan authorities.

"As of January 10, 41 patients have been diagnosed to have infection of the novel coronavirus. Among them, two patients have been discharged, seven patients are in serious condition and one died, while the remaining patients are in stable condition. A total of 739 close contacts have been identified and 419 of them are healthcare workers. All have been put under medical surveillance, and no related cases have been detected so far. There have been no new cases since January 3. For the time being, the Mainland's investigation has neither identified any infection of healthcare workers nor definite evidence of human-to-human transmission. According to information from the NHC, investigation, epidemiological investigations revealed that the patients are mainly business operators at a market called "Hua Nan Seafood Wholesale Market" in Wuhan, which has been closed since January first."

2. WHO response.

WHO has published a series of documents related to preparedness and response. These can be found through the links below. Please note that the laboratory guidelines were published at a time when the full genome sequence of the Whuhan virus was **not** known. This situation has changed (see below).

[Disease commodity checklist](#)

[Surveillance case definitions for human infection with novel coronavirus \(nCoV\)](#)

[Laboratory guidance](#)

[Infection prevention and control](#)

[Risk communications](#)

[Readiness checklist](#)

3. Full genome sequence.

The full length genome and related publication information can be found [here](#). In GISAID (GISAID.org) sequences from 5 patients can be found.

It is now officially confirmed that the Wuhan virus is part of the genus beta-coronavirus, subgenus *Sarbecovirus*. The Wuhan CoV appears to be 89% similar to SARS-related bat coronaviruses in the *Sarbecovirus* subgenus.

The nucleocapsid protein that is highly conserved across coronaviruses shows the same level of conservation with SARS-CoV. RdRp seems to be completely conserved.

While the status of specific molecular test development in China is unclear, virus species specific molecular tests are currently being designed and validated by European CoV specialist labs. The test specifics will be shared within EVD-LabNet as soon as these become available.

Until then laboratories are advised to check their pan-coronavirus tests primers/probes against the published sequence for mismatches that might affect test performances.

As indicated before, please refer to a specialist coronavirus laboratory within the network for (confirmatory) testing if needed.

The following laboratories can be contacted:

-Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin Institute of Virology, Germany.

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- Erasmus MC, the Netherlands.

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This information will be updated when necessary.

best wishes [5.1.2e]



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