Novel coronavirus outbreak in China

Travel advisory to travelers visiting China

Coronaviruses are respiratory viruses and broadly distributed in humans and other mammals. Some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal corona viruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS and SARS. Although most human coronavirus infections are mild, the epidemics of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), have caused more than 10000 cumulative cases in the past two decades, with mortality rates of 10% for SARS-CoV and 37% for MERS-CoV. The current outbreak was initially noticed in a seafood market in Wuhan city in Hubei Province of China on 12th December, 2019 and has spread across China and many countries.

The clinical signs and symptoms are mainly **fever with a few patients having difficulty in breathing.**

Mode of transmission is unclear but available evidence points to human-to-human transmission occurring between close contacts through respiratory route.

In view of the spurt of cases being reported from China and travel related cases appearing in many countries, the travelers to China are advised the following:

- Those planning a visit to China
    - All non-essential travel to China to be avoided.

- Travelers to China should follow simple public health measures **at all times** as under:
    - Observe good personal hygiene.
    - Practice frequent hand washing with soap.
    - Follow respiratory etiquettes - cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
    - Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness, such as cough, runny nose etc.
    - Avoid contact with live animals and consumption of raw/undercooked meats.
    - Avoid travel to farms, live animal markets or where animals are slaughtered.
    - Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as cough or runny nose.

- All travelers to China to monitor their health closely

- During your stay in China, if you feel sick and have fever and cough:
    - Cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.
    - Don't plan any further travel, if sick.
    - Seek medical attention promptly.
    - Report to Indian Embassy in China (+8618612083629 and +8618612083617)

- If you feel sick on flight, while traveling back to India:
    - Inform the airlines crew about illness.
    - Seek mask and the self-reporting format from the airline crew.
    - Avoid close contact with family members or fellow travelers.

- Follow the directions of airline crew while disembarking.
- Immediately report facts to the Airport Health Office/Immigration Office and Helpline number (011-23978046) also.
- Follow the direction of the airport health officer or as issued by the helpline.

- **If you feel sick within a span of one month after return from China:**
    - Immediately call the Helpline number (011-23978046) and follow the direction issued.
    - Maintain effective self-isolation at home and with others.
    - Observe good personal hygiene.
    - Practice frequent hand washing with soap.
    - Follow respiratory etiquettes - cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
    - Report the illness to the nearest health facility and also inform the treating doctor regarding your travel history.