

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
Outcomes of AHPPC Emergency teleconference – 2019 novel coronavirus
Saturday 25 January 2020
Teleconference

0930 – 1015

Members attending:

Prof Brendan Murphy	Chair, Chief Medical Officer
Dr Angie Bone (proxy)	Victoria (VIC)
Dr Jeanette Young	Queensland (QLD)
Dr Kerryn Coleman	Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
Dr Hugh Heggie	Northern Territory (NT)
Dr Mark Veitch	Tasmania (TAS)
Dr Nicola Spurrier	South Australia (SA)
Dr Sonya Bennett	Chair, Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA)
Dr Mike Catton	Deputy Chair, Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN)
Ms Nicole Curtis (proxy)	Australian Defence Force (ADF)
Mr Rob Cameron	Emergency Management Australia (EMA)
Dr Caroline McElnay	New Zealand

Experts and observers:

Prof Allen Cheng, Dr Rhonda ^{s47C}	Monash University/Monash Medical Centre
Prof Jodie McVernon	University of Melbourne/Doherty Institute
Dr Annaliese Van Diemen	VIC CDNA
Dr Chris Lease (proxy)	SA

Apologies:

Dr Brett Sutton	Victoria (VIC)
Dr Kerry Chant	New South Wales (NSW)
Dr Andrew Robertson	Western Australia (WA)
Dr Sarah Sharkey	

Department of Health (Health):

Ms Celia Street	First Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Protection (OHP)
Ms Rhonda Owen	Secretariat/Assistant Secretary, Health Emergency Management Branch (HEMB), OHP
Dr Gary Lum	Principal Medical Advisor, OHP

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1. Meeting opening

1.1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 09:00 by welcoming members and taking a roll call of the attendees.

2. Discussions

2.1 Confirmed case of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The Chair stated that the first confirmed case of 2019-nCoV has occurred in Victoria. s47 F

s47F further reported that the case was currently in hospital s47F

The case was fitted with another mask upon arrival to the emergency department.

s47F noted that the case's close contacts include s47F. The case is currently unwell but not critical, has had confirmed fever and radiology, with the diagnosis of 2019-nCoV being laboratory confirmed at approximately 2am this morning.

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Action

- Nil.

2.2 Contact tracing

The Chair requested an update on whether contact tracing was going to occur on the affected flight. Dr Annaliese Van Diemen, deputy Chief Health Officer Victoria, noted that the case had travelled from s47F on flights s47F

t Victoria would conduct

precautionary contact tracing of the seats adjacent to the index case.

Prof s47F, Monash University, noted that the transmission of 2019-nCoV in respect to the onset of symptoms is currently unknown. s47F

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Dr Sonya Bennett, Chair of CDNA, noted that the Series of National Guidelines on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) states that 'close contacts' are defined as anyone who has been in an enclosed space with the symptomatic case, or people sitting two rows before and after the index case. Public Health Units would follow up with close contacts every day to monitor their health status. However, the former definition regarding enclosed space could include all passengers on the plane.

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The Chair noted that these discussions supported contact tracing of the two rows before and after the index case, and asked how the contact tracing process occurs. s47F stated that the passenger list would be requested from the National Incident Room in the first instance. s47F reiterated the issue of the SoNG having contrary definitions of 'close' and 'casual' contacts to what was being currently discussed. Close contacts are not the people in 2 rows before and after the index case, and need to be followed up with a call and letter with a reference number for records.

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s47F and at ports of entry there are already signs and banners on display. It was noted that there was interest in producing fact sheets at all airports particularly Asian ports.

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The meeting closed at 1015.