

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)  
Outcomes of AHPPC Emergency teleconference – 2019 novel coronavirus  
Monday 27 January 2020  
Teleconference

1400 – 1525

**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 Kerry Chant	New South Wales (NSW)
Dr Andrew Robertson	Western Australia (WA)
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)
Dr Caroline McElroy	New Zealand

**Experts and observers:**

Prof Jodie McVernon	University of Melbourne/Doherty Institute
Dr Annaliese Van Diemen	VIC CDNA
Dr Chris Lease (proxy)	SA
Prof Ben Howden	Doherty Institute
Dr Heidi Carrol	QLD
Dr Lyn Gilbert	APPRISE Chief Investigator
Ms Alison McMillan	Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer
Dr Claire Huppertz	Acting Chief Human Biosecurity Officer WA

**Apologies:**

Dr Brett Sutton	Victoria (VIC)
Dr Sarah Sharkey	ADF
Mr Rob Cameron	Emergency Management Australia (EMA)
Prof Allen Cheng	Monash University/Monash Medical Centre

**Department of Health (Health):**

Ms Celia Street	First Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Protection (OHP)
Ms Rhonda Owen	Assistant Secretary, Health Emergency Management Branch (HEMB), OHP
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Ms Sarah Norris	Assistant Secretary, Regulatory Policy Branch, OHP
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## 1. Meeting opening

### 1.1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 14:00 by welcoming members and taking a roll call of the attendees.

## 2. Discussions

The Chair invited Dr Bennet to provide an overview of key outcomes and discussion from CDNA to inform AHPPC discussion.

### 2.1 Novel coronavirus case definition

Dr Bennet noted that CDNA had agreed to extend the case definition to replace the words 'sustained transmission' with 'agreed areas of human to human transmission', and add Hubei province to the published list of affected regions.

CDNA also discussed the time period for classification of infectivity. CDNA members agreed that the time interval for contact tracing from flight arrival to onset of symptoms be 24 hours, and sought AHPPC approval of this decision. CDNA also agreed that domestic flights should be subject to contact tracing for confirmed cases.

AHPPC members endorsed guidance on time periods for contact tracing.

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. Members also agreed that the case definition should be specific, while general guidance should have a broader reference to mainland China but particularly Hubei province.

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#### Action

- Nil.

### 2.2 Factsheets and guidance documents

Dr Bennet noted that CDNA had approved a range of factsheets, including for schools and universities. She specified that the factsheets approved by CDNA for schools and universities had different exclusion guidance for children and tertiary students.

Members agreed that it was appropriate for different exclusion criteria to be applied to children and adult students, noting their differing capacity for identifying the onset of illness and take action accordingly. Members noted that factsheets would be published on the Health website on 28 January 2020.

#### Action

- Nil.

### 2.2 Repatriation

Dr Bennet noted that CDNA had agreed that asymptomatic children repatriated from Hubei province did not need to be excluded, and should be subject to the interim CDNA guidance as standard.

The Chair proposed that similar measures be put in place for the arrival of flights with repatriated Australians as were implemented for the direct Wuhan to Sydney flight. Members agreed that meeting the aircraft and providing screening and information through an on-site clinical presence would be sensible. Dr Young also noted that it would be necessary for jurisdictions to consider ongoing local monitoring measures to capture asymptomatic cases.

**Action**

- Nil.

**2.2 Working group**

Dr Gilbert noted that a working group had been established under CDNA to consider matters related to infection control that may relate to 2019-nCoV s22 purpose. AHPPC members endorsed the establishment of the working group, noting the groups would meet in the week commencing 27 January 2020. Matters for consideration include cleaning of spaces where a confirmed case has attended, disposal of hospital items such as PPE, and storage and disposal of corpses.

**Action**

- AHPPC members endorsed the working group.

**3. Other business**

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Professor Murphy noted that announcements are being rolled out at air and sea ports, and on vessels and aircraft, providing information about signs and symptoms of coronavirus and actions to undertake if feeling unwell.

**Action**

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The meeting closed at 1520 AEDT.