

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

Emergency Teleconference

Novel Coronavirus (2019 – nCoV)

Tuesday 4 February 2020

1400 – 1500 AEDT

Outcomes

Members attending	
Prof Brendan Murphy	Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer
Dr Andrew Robertson	Chief Health Officer, Western Australia
A/Prof Nicola Spurrier	Chief Health Officer, South Australia
Dr Brett Sutton	Chief Health Officer, Victoria
Dr Kerry Chant	Chief Health Officer, New South Wales
Dr Jeremy McNulty	
Dr Mark Veitch	Chief Health Officer, Tasmania
Dr Hugh Heggie	Chief Health Officer, Northern Territory
Dr Vanessa Johnston	Proxy for Chief Health Officer, Australian Capital Territory
R/Adm Sharkey	Commander Joint Health and Surgeon-General, ADF
Invited Experts	
Dr Sonya Bennett	Chair, Communicable Disease Network Australia
Dr Ben Howden	Chair, Public Health Laboratories Network
Prof Jodie McVernon	University of Melbourne
Prof James McCaw	University of Melbourne
Professor Alan Cheng	Director, Infection, Prevention and Healthcare Epidemiology Unit, Alfred Health
Professor Lyn Gilbert	Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Institute of Clinical Pathology, University of Sydney
Department of Health	
Mr Graeme Bardin	Assistant Secretary, National Incident Room, Office of Health Protection
s22	
Dr Gary Lum	Medical Officer, Office of Health Protection
s22	

Prof Murphy welcomed Members and updated case numbers provided by the WHO today.

He sought an update of the status of cases from jurisdictions. The case numbers in Australia remains at 12 with quite a few jurisdictions undertaking testing on a daily basis.

s47F

Members discussed the implications of people not being forthcoming with correct information or adhering to self-isolation processes. s47B

Dr Bennett advised that PH England has decreased the isolation period to 10 days. CDNA will review tomorrow but most Members believe 14 days is more realistic at this stage.

ACTION: CDNA to review the length of isolation and advise AHPPC if it consider this needs to be changed from 14 days.

Infection Control Working Group guidelines

Prof Gilbert provided an overview of the proposed PPE guidelines for testing in a community setting, noting that the Working Group will undertake further work on what PPE is required in a hospital setting.

Following discussions on the need for pragmatism and flexibility, Members endorsed the guidelines with regular review to be undertaken.

ACTION: PPE guidelines for testing in a community setting endorsed by AHPPC.

Pandemic Planning Workshop

Prof McVernon provided information on a new report in Science Today which found the testing of the German case with reporting saying they were infectious while asymptomatic was flawed, as the case was in fact symptomatic at the time of infection.

Prof McVernon provided an overview of yesterday's workshop and thanked all for their participation and approach. She highlighted some recommendations from the workshop including: the AHMPPI as an appropriate instrument to guide response actions; commissioning a suite of modelling studies; enhancement and coordination of information gathering; consideration by jurisdictions of alternative models of care and engagement with Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN).

Initial modelling studies will focus on minimising transmission; and preparing and supporting health system needs.

Dr Bennett commented on further reporting of asymptomatic cases and whether this should be omitted from case number reports. She also agreed to review the

period of infectivity (24 hours) at tomorrow's meeting, with the CDNA Secretariat to look at WHO reporting of these cases prior to the meeting.

Prof Murphy agreed to a release of a Communique from the Workshop to be developed and circulated.

ACTION: Modelling studies to be undertaken on pandemic planning.

ACTION: CDNA to review period of infectivity at tomorrow's meeting.

Border – Ports

Prof Murphy advised that the maritime industry has indicated that they require more information around appropriate PPE especially for Pilots required to board ships in Australian ports.

A Marine Pilots Fact Sheet is in the final stages of production and will be circulated this afternoon with updated information on appropriate procedures to follow if any crew or passengers are well or unwell.

A Fact Sheet for the Maritime Industry more broadly is also being prepared and is expected to be circulated tonight.

National Medical Stockpile

Ms Lucas requested all jurisdictions to provide the Secretariat with the current status of their stock of both surgical and P2 masks, including the P2 masks provided by the Commonwealth as part of the bushfire response.

ACTION: Jurisdictions to provide status of mask stock to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Assisted Repatriation and health services

Prof Murphy provided an update of the two flights already scheduled to carry Australians from Wuhan. The initial Qantas flight has landed at Learmonth RAAF base and passengers have been transferred and arrived on Christmas Island with the AUSMAT doctors who accompanied them.

Details of the Air New Zealand flight with Australian passengers is currently being finalised by DFAT and ABF with Air New Zealand.

There is a need for two further AUSMAT teams to support the Air New Zealand uplift and a second proposed Qantas flight. s47C

Members gave in principle approval for both AUSMAT teams.

ACTION: AHPPC approved AUSMAT Teams Bravo and Charlie to support the assisted repatriation process.

Masks on Domestic Flights

s47C

Dr Sutton raised the issues around messaging community risk from novel Coronavirus and the need to have consolidated messaging supporting our Chinese community and callout racism. Dr Sutton agreed to provide a draft to AHPPC tomorrow for approval.

ACTION: Dr Sutton to provide a draft message to AHPPC tomorrow for approval in support of our Chinese community.

Meeting Closed: 1510

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