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Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

Emergency Teleconference

Novel Coronavirus

Thursday 6 February 2020 14:45 – 15:45 AEDT

Outcomes

Members attending	
Prof Brendan Murphy	Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer
Prof Paul Kelly	Assistant 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 McAnulty	Director, Health Protection, New South Wales
Dr Jeannette Young	Chief Health Officer, Queensland
Dr Mark Veitch	Chief Health Officer, Tasmania
Dr Kerryn Coleman	Chief Health Officer, ACT
R/Adm Sarah Sharkey	Commander Joint Health and Surgeon General, ADF
Dr Hugh Heggie	Chief Health Officer, Northern Territory
Dr Caroline McElany	NZ Ministry of Health
A/Prof Dianne Stephens	Deputy Chief Health Officer, Northern Territory Medical Director, NCCTRC
Invited Experts	
Dr Mike Catton	VIDRL
Professor Jodie McVernon	University of Melbourne
Professor James Mccaw	University of Melbourne
Dr Sonya Bennett	QLD Health
Professor Allen Cheng	Director, Infection, Prevention and Healthcare Epidemiology Unit, Alfred Health
Dr Ben Howden	Chair, Public Health Laboratories Network
Professor Lyn Gilbert	Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Institute of Clinical Pathology, University of Sydney
Department of Health	
Ms Celia Street	First Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Protection
Ms Rhonda Owen	Assistant Secretary, Health Emergency Management Branch
Dr Gary Lum	Medical Officer, MSAU
Dr Jenny Firman	Chief Medical Officer, DVA
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Welcome

The CMO welcomed members and gave a brief update on the current situation with nCoV worldwide cases and noted that there needs to be a clear narrative around people with mild disease.

There has been growth in cases and deaths in Hubei Province – 2% CFR

- Total cases - 28,262
- Cases Aus - 14
 - QLD stable at the moment.
 - VIC in hospital for isolation.
 - 5 discharged from hospital
- Deaths - 565

AUSMAT Deployment – Christmas Island

Ms Rhonda Owen provided members with a brief update on the 12 member, AUSMAT Team 2, who will be leaving for Christmas Island tomorrow.

The CMO advised that:

- two people on Christmas Island who have been tested for nCoV have been confirmed negative;
- s47C ;
- the isolation pods can take up to 50 people;
- authorities are trying to improve facilities for the passengers staying there.

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CDNA Update

Dr Sonya Bennett provided members with a brief update on the work currently being undertaken by CDNA.

Modelling scenarios for nCoV

Professor James McCaw provided members with an overview of the modelling currently being undertaken on different scenarios for the novel coronavirus over the next 3-6 months and what would happen if containment fails. Professor McCaw thanked those involved for assisting and enabling the interim report to be delivered in such a short time frame.

The advice is based on scenarios and not predictions. Literature has informed the best efforts of transmission.

Questions

KC – good for separate work on those expected to present unwell. Seeking health services that could be general practice.

JM – this will take another week or so to complete.

The CMO advised members that the Health team has been working on an implementation plan based on the AHMPPI. The “coronavirus pandemic plan” will incorporate the modelling into the decision making process.

Cruise Ships

Members discussed expectations for the clarity of actions for cruise ships following advice from the Foreign Minister that another cruise ship from Taiwan is in quarantine in Hong Kong. Information coming through mentions 15 Australians sick on board the ship.

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Border issues apply to cruise ships who left Mainland China on or after 1 February 2020. s4
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DFAT Request – AUSMAT Teams

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IPCAG update

Professor Lyn Gilbert gave an update on the work being undertaken by the group including the use of P2 masks in the healthcare setting and the use of PPE on retrieval aircraft.

Members noted that emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of not using P2 masks unnecessarily and that messaging needs to be consistent and specific. Members also noted that there is a shortage of masks due to the major disruption in supply chains and limited resources around the world.

Professor Kelly noted that policy on the use of masks needs to be developed.

Other business

F2F meeting

Members agreed that the most suitable date for the face-to-face is Thursday 13 February.

- Video conferencing would be made available to those members unable to participate in person.

Nationally Notifiable Disease

2019-nCoV will be made a nationally notifiable disease in each state. A minute is currently with the CMO to support this.