



## Minutes of Meeting

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Health Cluster Virtual Meeting: Update on COVID-19</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>12/02/2020</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>WHO Office Kiev</b>
<b>Minutes taken by:</b>	<b>Aron Aregay</b>
<b>Meeting Arrangement:</b>	<b>Virtual Meeting via Webex</b>

### **Broad Overview on COVID-19 by Dr. Jarno, WHO representative**

- On Friday last week Dr. Tedros and, WHO Director General, and UN Secretary General António Guterres on coordination of outbreak response, guidance is being prepared
- As of now there is no plan to activate IASC scale up in response to the ongoing outbreak, but things could change in the future
- UN crisis management policy has been activated, meaning there is a coordination body at the higher level in the UN through which all Resident Coordinators receive daily situation update, while Humanitarian Coordinators receive the same through UN OCHA. At country level, the Health Cluster coordination platform will be used to disseminate timely information on regular basis. Regarding NGCA, WHO office in Donetsk is liaising with the de-facto authorities in sharing timely information.
- Both WHO and CDC have procured test kits and on its way to the country, expected to arrive soon
- Currently Ukraine is conducting an inventory assessment of personal protective equipment by the leadership of MOH, and decide if there is a need for procurement
- The public health emergency of international concern that was announced on 31 January was mainly aimed at enabling WHO to provide temporary recommendations which was announced at the time. However, more than 20 member states have gone beyond those recommendations provided by WHO in which case the member state is expected to provide explanation for their decision. Ukraine has adopted plan that include three items which are not in the WHO recommendation and currently following with the public health leadership to identify the what are those recommendations and the evidence-based rationale behind the decision. The other rationale for announcing the public health emergency of internal concern is to enable WHO to facilitate the process related with research and development which allows extensive dialogue on vaccine and diagnostic treatment. Based on the initial discussion, vaccine for the virus is not expected in short term, expected within 18 months



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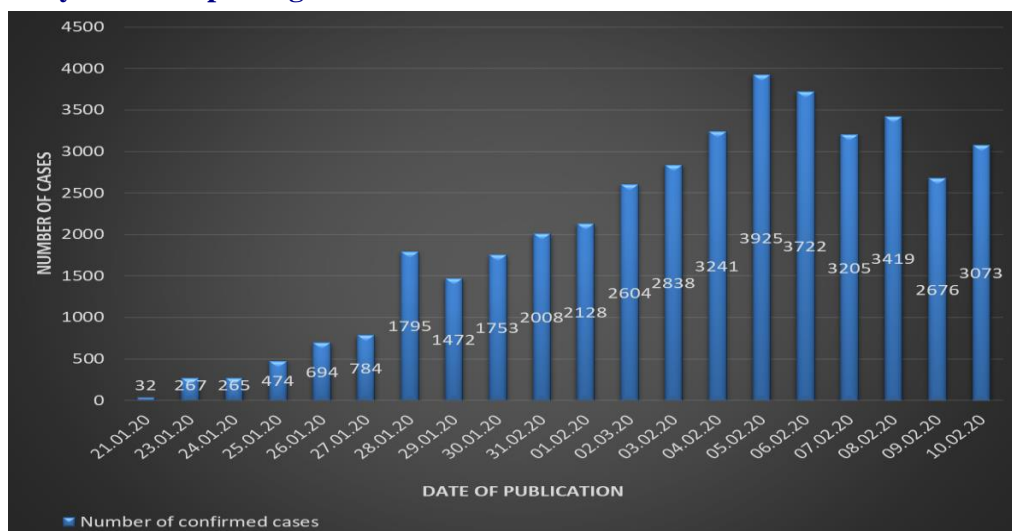
#### Q&A

- Q: Which countries are most at risk in our region
- A: Currently the cases are mostly in western Europe with direct link with travel in China, but any country could be affected by outbreak. WHO advocates for vaccination again flu to rule out
- Q: China based online shopping companies are very popular in Ukraine and items are shipped directly into the country, is there any potential risk of importation of the virus?
- A: There are no evidence the virus can survive in dry surfaces for such long time hence
- Q: Do we know when will the evacuation of Ukrainian citizens from Wuhan and did MOH identified isolation center?
- A: The plan was to do the evacuation tomorrow 13 February around 50 Ukrainian citizens and the MOH is reviewing on local legislation if it allows quarantine and also learning from experience of other countries who have already evacuated citizens from the epi center of the outbreak.
- Q: As we hear from the Minister of health during the press conference and parliamentary committee for health, the information that was communicated sounds very relaxed approach, going as far as it's the right of the patient to not abide to the quarantine. So is WHO aware of the approach and agreed on the decision?
- A: There are some conflicting views whether quarantine is possible under current regulation in Ukraine and MOH is concerned about it. Different countries exercise different approach on quarantine, WHO advise the government of Ukraine on general measures which are all available in WHO website including IPC guideline that need to be followed and the decision is left for the government.

### Global update and country preparedness by Dr. Vitalii Stetsyk

#### COVID-19 global update as of 11 February

##### # of cases by date of reporting



- So far 25 countries have reported COVID-19 cases
- A total of 1018 death, all but one in China, the most vulnerable people are those with underlying conditions and advanced age
- Common symptoms of the illness are fever (98.6%), fatigue (69.6%), dry cough (59.4%), myalgia (34.8%), dyspnoea (31.2%)
- Median age of COVID-19 patients is 56 years
- Fatality rate remains to be within 2%
- Advice for coping with stress during COVID-19 outbreak can be downloaded at <https://www.epi-win.com/advice-and-information/general-public/general-public-resources>
- WHO Travel Advice: <https://www.who.int/ith/en/>

At global level, WHO have made all technical guidelines and training materials for different intervention level has been availed, surveillance, laboratory and all other relevant materials are made available.

Risk communication messages provided to countries and the country team have shared the messages via the health cluster platform



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### Country preparedness

- Provision of IT equipment to establish an Emergency Operations Unit at the Public Health Centre, the emergency center is at pilot stage starting December last year
- Training and other capacity-building activities of the public health personnel and MoH in epidemic intelligence, IHR mechanism, risk assessment and contingency planning
- Continuous technical advice for the development of the operational procedures for infection control, clinical management, surveillance and detection, etc. Most of these materials has been translated to Ukrainian by MOH
- Risk communication materials are constantly shared with the Ministry of Health and Public Health Centre, which are being used for their communication in Ukraine
- Improving detection capacity, WHO is closely working with the reference laboratory with the public health center, any suspected cases should be sent to the national laboratory for testing. WHO and CDC are closely working to ship more testing kits, currently there is one PCR kit which was procured by public health center capable of conducting 100 tests. WHO purchased kits will arrive in country very soon, it can serve up to 3000 tests
- Supported public health center with establishing SOPs, algorithms for virologists, epidemiologist and clinicians on how to treat cases, how to refer to the labs, etc
- In case of any case detected, maintained a link between WHO collaborative centers and reference lab for Ukraine for virus confirmation
- WHO Ukraine has commenced procurement of PPE for contingency purposes
- WHO continue to collaborate with all health partners and appreciate the humanitarian health partners for showing interest in supporting in this regard.

### Q&A:

A: The treatment packages procured by national health services, are hospitals ready to deliver the care?

Q: In principle, there is no specific treatment available and all treatment is the same as SARI, Severe Acute Respiratory Infection and hospitals are dealing with similar diagnosis and care has been provided for many year

Q: WASH providing organization can help with public health campaigning especially around hand washing, what do you think the trigger is for us to start scaling up such approached and start to work with communities. Do you think the authorities have it under control or you think there will be a need for such support?

A: Can you please clarify when you say scaling up, what is the baseline currently?

Q: Currently there are 2-3 organizations engaged in some hygiene promotion activities in schools exclusively in east Ukraine, we don't have any international organization in the rest of the country

A: It required further discussion on this area, the health authorities are currently utilizing existing resources for hand hygiene. Let's have a separate discussion in more details.

Q: Due to the high demand to PPE materials, do we expect price hike and plan to deal with it?

A: Reports are showing 20-fold increase in price on some PPE materials and the government is prohibiting export of equipment as there are few local producers to control the price hike and supply shortage



Overall, despite there is no single COVID-19 case reported in the country, MOH and relevant public health bodies are working in an emergency mode to make sure the country is ready to detect and respond to potential importation.

[illegible]