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## **HEALTH ALERT FOR THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019 nCoV)**

**Update # 1 as of January 28, 2020**

A novel (new) coronavirus strain (2019 nCoV) was identified in Wuhan City in the People's Republic of China (PRC) on January 07, 2020.

As of January 28, 2020, over 4,474 cases and 107 related deaths most of which occurred in the epicenter-Wuhan, Hubei province China and increasing number of cases have been reported throughout China. Cases have also been confirmed in Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, United States, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, France, Vietnam, Nepal, Canada, and Sri-Lanka.

Whilst Chinese authorities have imposed travel restrictions for Wuhan City, there is still a risk of importation of 2019 nCoV into other countries.

There are no direct flights from Wuhan in the PRC to the Federated States of Micronesia, but FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) is currently enhancing surveillance at ports of entry. FSM DHSA advises anyone who has travelled to PRC within the last 14 days who is experiencing flulike symptoms to see a doctor or to an emergency room as soon as possible but it is recommended that you call first.

This new virus is spread between people through coughing and sneezing, and direct contact (skin to skin and contact with infected surfaces). Common signs of infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia and even death.

Everyone is advised to practice preventive measures such as regular hand washing, covering your mouth with a tissue or the upper-sleeve of your shirt when coughing and sneezing, and avoiding close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

The FSM DHSA will continue to monitor the outbreak and update the public on any developments. For more information about the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), contact FSM DHSA at 320-2619/8300 or your local health department:

- Yap Department of Health Services: 350-2115/2114
- Chuuk Department of Health Services: 330-2210/2216/2217
- Pohnpei Department of Health Services: 320-2214/2215/2216
- Kosrae Department of Health Services: 370-3199