



## World Sailing Medical Commission Advice on Novel Coronavirus outbreak

### **Advice accurate as of 24/01/2020**

World Sailing takes the potential dangers to our athletes, coaches and race officials health seriously. World Sailing is aware of the potential dangers of the recent Novel Coronavirus outbreak to participants in the upcoming 49erFX and Nacra 17 continental qualifiers in Shanwei, Guangdong and Shanghai. World Sailing is closely monitoring the situation and continues to conduct close communication with International Health Agencies.

With an initial alert on 31 December 2019 and several follow-up reports, China has informed the WHO of an outbreak of a new viral respiratory illness originating in the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province. The previously unknown pathogen, preliminary labelled “**2019-nCoV**” (**Novel coronavirus**), has now been confirmed to be a new strain of coronavirus (different strain from SARS and MERS) that has not been previously identified in humans. Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.

While cases were initially limited to visitors of seafood and livestock markets, isolated cases of human-to human infection have been seen. Since 20 January 2020, the virus has spread to the major cities of Beijing and Shenzhen. Korea, Japan and Thailand have reported imported cases, which could all be traced back to the Chinese province Hubei. Given the heavy population movements which are expected to increase significantly in the last week of January during the Chinese New Year, the risk of cases being reported from elsewhere is increasing.

The most common symptoms of infection are fever with some patients presenting with difficulty breathing. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory

syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Human to Human transmission has been confirmed by China and persons who have been in contact with infected patients are being monitored. Additional investigations are needed to determine how the patients were infected, the extent of human-to-human transmission, the clinical spectrum of disease, and the geographic range of infection.

Based on the current situation with relatively limited information regarding contagiousity, incubation periods and in addition to unknown availability and reliability of laboratory tests, World Sailing will for the time being closely monitor the situation and spread of the disease, adhering to the advice of International Health Agencies and Organizations (WHO, CDC, ECDC).

At present there are no recommendations from health authorities that travel to China needs to be avoided.

Travellers should exercise standard recommendations to prevent infection spread. Those include regular hand washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment and thoroughly cooking meat and eggs. Travellers should avoid contact with farm or wild animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections. Travellers with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).

Outbound flights from China, particularly Wuhan, are subject to additional inspection in the form of health screening/ temperature check, and quarantine of suspected cases. These measures have already been implemented in countries inside and even outside the region – where authorities are currently screening passengers coming from Wuhan directly or via a connection. Travellers from the area experiencing fever or respiratory symptoms are advised to seek medical attention immediately and are encouraged to self-report if they feel ill.

The World Sailing Medical Commission is closely monitoring the situation and if necessary, the medical advice will be updated between now and the qualifiers in March.

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