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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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5729	28.01.2020	28.01.2020	New Delhi	The Times of India English Newspaper 28 th January, 2020/Page No. 01 & 09
Title:	Three persons quarantined in New Delhi			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-New Delhi			

The threat of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), that originated in China's Wuhan last month, spreading to Delhi became serious on Monday with three persons with history of travel to China reporting to Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital with symptoms of the disease.

While two of them returned from China last week, the third one returned almost a month ago from the neighbouring country, sources said.

"All three of them reported themselves to the hospital. They are suffering from cold, cough, fever and upper respiratory tract infection – symptoms that are common to even seasonal flu. However, due to their travel history, we are not taking any chances," the source added.

RML will act as nodal centre for all China virus suspects in India

AIIMS and Safdarjung Also Asked To Keep Their Isolation Wards Ready

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - idsp-msc@nic.in, idsp-npo@nic.in

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Dr Meenakshi Bhardwaj, medical superintendent of RML hospital, told TOI: "We have put them in an isolation ward as a precautionary measure and their test samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, for confirmation."

RML has been selected as the nodal centre for isolation and treatment of the novel coronavirus suspects as well as confirmed cases in the country. It has one isolation ward with six beds operational already and, officials said, depending on the requirement the capacity can be expanded to 34 beds at short notice.

On Monday, a team led by Dr Sujeet Singh, who heads the National Centre for Disease Control, visited the hospital to review preparedness for management of the novel coronavirus. The team inspected the isolation wards, reviewed biohazard disposal protocols and assessed the availability of personal protective equipment such as masks. Sources said AIIMS and Safdarjung, two other major hospitals run by the centre, have also been asked to keep their isolation wards ready.

"The novel coronavirus infection has no cure at present. No vaccine exists either to prevent the disease at present. India, therefore, is on alert to prevent the spread of the infection from China, where it originated, to the country," officials said.

AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria had told TOI they have a cubicle where six to seven patients can be isolated for treatment. "Depending on the requirement, we can increase the capacity of isolation wards 100% or more," he said.

Isolation of suspected or confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection is required to separate such patients from other patients and the general public.

Like seasonal influenza, which is quite common these days, coronavirus infection also spreads from an infected person to others through the air, by coughing and sneezing or through close personal contact.

A review of clinical features of patients with the 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan that has been published in The Lancet shows nearly one in every three infected individual has underlying diseases, for example diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease. All 41 patients reviewed by the experts had pneumonia with abnormal findings on chest CT. Complications included acute respiratory distress

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syndrome, anaemia, acute cardiac injury and secondary infection. Nearly 15% patients succumbed to the disease.

Overall, data from the Center for Disease Control of Prevention in the US shows more than 80 people have succumbed to novel coronavirus in a short span. The disease has spread to at least 15 countries, including the US, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and Nepal among others.

In India, no positive case has been reported so far but the government is on high alert and multiple ministries are meeting regularly to chalk out strategy to prevent the spread of the disease and prepare a roadmap to deal with any crisis situation.

The Wuhan illness, as the novel coronavirus infection is being described because its epicentre is in Chinese city of Wuhan, is of the same family that caused MERS-CoV or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronaviruses. The latter was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since spread to 26 countries.

SARS or Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, that was first reported in India in 2003, belonged to the same family too. The virus originated from bats, spread to civets and then to humans.

Even in the case of the Wuhan coronavirus, experts say, initially it was assumed the infection was spreading from animals to human. However, there are confirmed reports now about human-to-human transmission of the infection.

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WHEN VIRUS KNOCKS AT DOORSTEP

2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China



Symptoms and complications

Current symptoms include mild-to-severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty in breathing



Transmission

1 Originally, this virus emerged from an animal source, but now seems to be spreading from person to person



2 Can spread via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to influenza and other respiratory pathogens



Has anyone in India been infected?

No. Samples of 12 suspected cases were referred for testing, but the results came out negative

What the govt is doing about it

A 24x7 helpline started by govt for self-reporting of symptoms. The health and home ministries and other divisions are meeting regularly to chalk out plans



How you can protect yourself

There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection



Staff at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital review the protocol

AVOID INFECTION BY



Washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds



Not coming in close contact with sick



Staying at home when sick



Covering your cough or sneeze with tissue, then throw the tissue in trash



Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces

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