Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Module 2: The novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
Its epidemiology, risk factors, definitions and symptomology
What is a novel coronavirus?

- Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause a wide range of illness from the common cold to more severe diseases
  - i.e., Middle East Respiratory Syndrome [MERS] and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS]

- A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.
What is a novel coronavirus?

• Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause a wide range of illness from the common cold to more severe diseases. They are often zoonotic.
  • I.e., Middle East Respiratory Syndrome [MERS] and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS]
  • Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

• On 31 December 2019, the WHO China Country Office was informed of pneumonia cases of unknown cause in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was isolated and identified as the causative virus by Chinese authorities on 7 January.
Countries affected
(as of 23-02-2020)

[Link to the WHO's COVID-19 situation report]

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/
What we know about COVID-19

• Incubation period - current estimates of the incubation period of the virus range: 1-12.5 days (median 5-6 days).
• Estimates will be refined as more data become available. More information needed to determine whether transmission can occur from asymptomatic individuals or during the incubation period.
• Modes of transmission: droplets sprayed by affected individuals, contact with patient respiratory secretions, contaminated surfaces and equipment.
• Transmission from animals and human-to-human.
• Currently no available treatment or vaccination, supportive measures only.
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COVID-19 signs and symptoms

Illness seems to start with a **fever**, followed by a **dry cough** and then, after a week, leads to **shortness of breath** and some patients needing hospital treatment.
Symptoms of COVID-19

Early Stage:
Fever (>38°C)
AND
Respiratory symptoms:
• Cough
• Shortness of breath
• Runny nose
• Weakness
• Malaise
• Nausea/vomiting
• Diarrhea
• Headache

Advanced Stage:
All of the earlier symptoms plus
• Pneumonia
• Bronchitis
Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI):

A. History of fever, cough, and requiring admission to hospital, (with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation)  
AND  
history of travel or residence in/to China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset  

OR  

B. Patient with any acute respiratory illness AND at least one of the following during the 14 days prior to symptom onset:  
Contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 infection  
OR  
worked in or attended a health care facility where patients with confirmed or probable COVID-19 acute respiratory disease patients were being treated