



## **Proactive Release**

The following item has been proactively released by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

### **Novel Coronavirus Response Issue Updates: 5 February 2020**

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

#### **Key to redaction code:**

- 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals



# Memorandum

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ISSUE UPDATES: 5 FEBRUARY 2020

To Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Rt Hon Winston Peters, Hon Kelvin Davis, Hon Grant Robertson,  
Hon Dr David Clark, Hon David Parker, Hon Chris Hipkins.

Date	5/02/2020	Priority	High
Deadline	5/02/2020	Briefing Number	1920NSP/048

### Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Brook Barrington	Chief Executive – Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	s9(2)(a)	✓
s6(a)	Acting Director – National Security Systems Directorate  Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet		

### Purpose

1. This note collates agency advice regarding key matters emerging from the government response to novel coronavirus.

### Fast moving consumer goods

2. In Monday's briefing note, we committed to provide you with detail about implications that the virus, and our response to it, may have for fuel and fast moving consumer goods' supply chain management (1920NSP/046 refers). While the full implications are unknown at this time, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has provided the following advice about the mechanism in place to manage risks to fast moving consumer goods.
3. The National Fast Moving Consumer Goods Sector Coordinating Group is a national-level coordination body that is activated in emergencies that significantly disrupt the food and grocery supply and distribution to affected communities. NEMA coordinates the Group. Its objectives include:

## RESTRICTED

- The effective management of food and grocery supplies during regional and national emergencies
  - The mitigation of threats to fast moving consumer goods supply network and infrastructure
  - Keeping government informed as situations develop.
4. NEMA has informed the Group about the all-of-government response, recommended the Groups' network reviews its business continuity plans, and direct the Group to the Ministry of Health's public health information. The Group was also put on notice that due to the rapidly developing situation, a meeting may be called at short notice and/or response arrangements activated should the need arise.
  5. NEMA's advice is that we are not yet at the point where the Group needs to be activated. NEMA continues to closely monitor the situation and will activate the Group should the need arise.

### **Welfare in relation to self-isolation**

6. Following a discussion at Watch Group #5 this morning (Wednesday 5 February), NEMA and the Ministry of Social Development have started work to activate the *0800 Government* helpline, to provide dedicated welfare advice to people in self-isolation. (Self-isolation is the practice of keeping away from other people for 14 days from arrival in New Zealand to prevent the spread of the virus). The Ministry of Health will reference the service in its updated guidance on self-isolation (available on its website).

### **Health advice on the steps to be taken if the virus is confirmed in New Zealand**

7. Attached to this paper is a 1-pager from Ministry of Health outlining the protocols to be undertaken if a case of novel coronavirus is confirmed in New Zealand.

# Health advice on protocols following first case confirmation of novel coronavirus

## Request as received

- Key messages about the protocols to be undertaken once a case of novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) has been confirmed in New Zealand.

## Key messages

- If and when New Zealand receives a confirmed case of novel coronavirus we will activate the standard public health and clinical protocols for managing infectious disease cases.
- The overall aim of the protocols are to:
  - ensure appropriate and adequate treatment of the patient
  - prevent any onward spread within hospital settings and community contacts by performing thorough contact tracing.

## Protocol and steps

- Suspected case (i.e. that meets the case definition) notified to Medical Officer of Health (MOSH) by primary care provider or hospital (A priority - immediate)
- Suspected case managed in self-isolation or hospital isolation depending on clinical severity
- MOSH advises the Ministry (including the National Health Coordination Centre) - contact tracing and potential contamination response initiated (A priority)
- ESR notifies Ministry and MOSH of test results (as soon as result is available – maximum turnaround time is currently 24 hours)
- Confirmed case notified to key stakeholders including Director-General of Health, Minister of Health and other Ministers, DPMC / NSS, WHO (A priority)
- Confirmed case notified to WHO via IHR Focal Point (B priority, within 24 hours of notification)
- Deploy prepared media update and talking points pre-prepared by the Ministry (B priority, within 2 hours of notification)
- NHCC Border Operations (MOH) review border controls based on case details and provide advice to Ministers if required (C priority, same day)
- Advice to DHBs, Public Health Units, laboratories, primary care, etc. (C priority, same day)

- Ministry to follow up with Public Health Units on contract tracing and potential local media statements (as required)
- Ministry to revise current guidance and website information (as required).