**Von:** Susanne Nill   
**Gesendet:** Mittwoch, 29. Januar 2020 08:24  
**An:** Delegates All <[DelegatesAll@drk.de](mailto:DelegatesAll@drk.de)>; Team 21 <[team21@drk.de](mailto:team21@drk.de)>  
**Betreff:** Advisory: Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

Dear Colleagues,

As you all are aware, a new coronavirus is causing an outbreak of respiratory illness that began in the city of Wuhan, China. This outbreak began in early December 2019 and continues to grow. The majority of cases is still being detected in China, but there are also confirmed cases abroad (mainly countries in Asia, yet also Australia, USA, Canada, France and Germany).

Until today more than 6000 cases have been diagnosed and over 130 deaths reported. However, the fatality rate is still considered low and cases of death have been linked to previous weaknesses (e.g. elder people, underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems)

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

* Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
* Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
* When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals;
* People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, throw tissue away immediately and wash hands).
* If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider;
* Within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.

Though we do not have delegates based in China, it is of course a relevant transit hub for travels in the region. For the time being transit flights via China should be avoided. Please consider this for your future bookings, already existing tickets with transit in China can be changed.

In case you have any concerns or questions, please do let us know.

All the best,

Susanne

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