

# ADVISORY ON CORONAVIRUS (the virus causing COVID-19)

Issued in Public Interest by United Way Mumbai

## Current Global and Local Situation (as on 28th February 2020)

As per the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Situation Report, globally there are 79,331 confirmed cases of COVID-19, of which 77,262 are in China. 29 countries have confirmed cases of the infection and 2618 cases have been fatal. There were three cases in India, all of whom have recovered.

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200224-sitrep-35-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=1ac4218d\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200224-sitrep-35-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=1ac4218d_2)

### Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 Infection

In more severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia or affect the respiratory system or kidneys.

**If you have the above symptoms, seek medical care early and share your travel history with your healthcare provider.**

Fever

Cough

Shortness of breath & difficulty in breathing

Using hand dryers or UV lamps or spraying alcohol or chlorine on your body are not effective in killing the virus causing COVID-19

Thermal scanners can detect people with fever but not those infected who are not sick with fever

People receiving packages from China are not at risk of contracting the new coronavirus

At present, there is no evidence that companion animals/pets such as dogs or cats can be infected with COVID-19

People of all ages can be infected by this virus

Antibiotics work against bacteria, not viruses. This disease is caused by a virus. Therefore, antibiotics are not helpful in prevention or treatment.

To date, there is no specific medicine to prevent or treat COVID-19. Those infected should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms

## Mythbusters

For full and accurate details regarding the myths surrounding the COVID-19, visit the WHO website:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

For details regarding the travel situation in India due to COVID-19, you can refer to the Govt. of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Coronavirus travel advisory:

<http://bit.ly/COVID-travel-advisory>

For any queries related to health, people may contact the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 24\*7 helpline number, +91-11-23978046 or email at: [ncov2019@gmail.com](mailto:ncov2019@gmail.com).

The Indian Embassy in China continues to remain contactable 24x7 on two hotline numbers +8618610952903 & +8618612083629 and the dedicated email [helpdesk.beijing@mea.gov.in](mailto:helpdesk.beijing@mea.gov.in). Indian nationals in need of any assistance may get in touch with the Embassy on these hotlines and email.

As per WHO, the COVID-19 outbreak and response have been accompanied by a massive 'infodemic' - an over-abundance of information - some accurate and some not - making it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when needed. Hence, it is critical to avoid sharing information which does not originate from a trustworthy source and rely on information shared by WHO and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

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