

Wuhan Health Commission

web.archive.org/web/20200105131338/http://wjw.wuhan.gov.cn/front/web/showDetail/2020010509020

Since December 31, 2019, the Commission has worked on the case search and retrospective investigation of viral pneumonia cases of unknown cause across the city. As of 8:00 AM on January 5, 2020, 59 patients with viral pneumonia of unknown cause were reported in our city, including 7 cases with severe conditions, while vital signs of the rest of the patients were generally stable. At present, all patients are being treated in isolation in Wuhan medical institutions, without any fatality. Among the 59 patients, the earliest onset time was December 12, 2019, and the latest onset time was December 29. 163 close contacts have been identified and are currently under medical observation, and the tracking of close contacts is still in progress.

Epidemiological investigation showed that some patients were business owners at Wuhan Huanan Seafood City (Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market). Up to now, our preliminary investigation shows that no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission has been found, and no medical personnel have been infected. Respiratory pathogens such as influenza, avian influenza, adenovirus, SARS and MERS have been ruled out. Etiological identification and etiological tracing are still in progress.

At present, with the support of the central government and Hubei provincial government, Wuhan has taken the following major prevention and control measures: The first is to take every effort to treat the patients. The second is to treat all cases in isolation. The third is to continue working on case search and retrospective investigation in medical institutions throughout the city. The fourth is to track close contacts and carry out medical observation as stipulated by regulations for the close contacts that have been identified. Up to now, no abnormal symptoms such as fever have been found. The fifth is to suspend operation of Huanan Seafood City and carry out environmental sanitation treatment and further hygienic investigation. The sixth is to actively carry out epidemiological investigation. The seventh is to cooperate with the central and provincial government to carry out etiological identification (including nucleic acid testing and virus isolation and culture) and cause traceability of the disease. The prevention and control work is being carried out in an orderly manner.

Experts suggest that at present, the city is in the season of high incidence of infectious diseases in winter and spring, and residents should make sure to keep indoor air ventilating, avoid public venues that are enclosed or with no air circulation and venues with crowds, and wear masks when necessary. Any development of fever or respiratory tract infection symptoms, persistent fever in particular, should be consulted with medical institutions in time.