**WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019?**

Coronaviruses are large groups of viruses that are common amongst animals. These viruses can make people sick, usually with a mild to moderate upper respiratory tract illness, similar to a common cold.

A new coronavirus called COVID-19 was identified in China and is associated with an outbreak of pneumonia.

**SYMPTOMS**

Mild to severe respiratory illness with:
- fever
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- sore throat

The complete clinical picture with regards to COVID-19 is still not clear. Patients with underlying illness and the elderly appear to be at increased risk of severe illness.

**HOW IT SPREADS**

The COVID-19 spreads mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

The COVID-19 is spread through:
- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands

**TREATMENT**

Treatment is supportive (e.g. provide oxygen for patients with shortness of breath or treatment for fever).

- There is no specific antiviral treatment available.
- Antibiotics do not treat viral infections. However, antibiotics may be required if bacterial secondary infection develops.

**PREVENTION**

There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against COVID-19 infection.

Transmission is reduced through:
- Washing hands often
- Avoid touching with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with infected people
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, once used throw away.

**MEASURES IN PLACE**

Fever screening is in place at international airports.

- Procedures are in place for case detection, isolation and management for quick diagnosis to be made.
- All health facilities will be able to manage suspected or confirmed cases and refer to the appropriate referral or designated hospital.
- Protocols are in place for follow up of case contacts to ensure that the virus does not spread.

**WHO IS AT GREATER RISK?**

Currently travellers to Wuhan, China and other affected areas.

**INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

- There is no specific antiviral treatment available.
- Antibiotics do not treat viral infections. However, antibiotics may be required if bacterial secondary infection develops.

For more information:

www.westerncape.gov.za/coronavirus

Contact the 24hr Public Hotline 0800 029 999