

ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK SITUATION

On 2nd March 2020

1. GLOBAL SITUATION

By the end of 1st March, 65 countries already reported to have COVID-19 patients. Total patient is 87,137 in which 7,169 case are outside of the China. A week ago, by 23 February, the number of country reported COVID-19 was just 28. All regions of the world now have reported COVID-19 cases. This shows the high international spreading. It is especially serious in Korea, and Iran while situation in Italy, France and Germany became more complicated and difficult to control.

WHO already have announced their risk assessment of COVID-19 outbreak VERY HIGH since 28 February.

2. SITUATION IN VIETNAM

COVID-19 has been well controlled. There has been no new case in last 17 days. No dead. All 16 patients (100%) were treated in hospital, already recovered well and discharged. Because of these achievement the CDC (Center of Disease Control) of US already removed Vietnam from the list of countries where local transmission exists. But there are still 81 suspected cases in observation and about 6,000 people exposed to the risk are isolated at home, community and special center.

The COVID-19 outbreak might continue spreading unpredictable in the coming weeks especially due to influence from the Korea outbreak. There are at least 10,000 Vietnamese citizen living and studying in Korea including Daegu and Seoul the most serious affected areas, who will come back to Vietnam to avoid the outbreak there. And Government of Vietnam will try find the solution to support them to travel back.

To prevent from 'importing' nCoV from countries where COVID-19 is spreading, Vietnam Government applied strict policy of limited immigration and quarantine at all airports. The policy of visa free for Korean was cancelled temporarily. All people entering Vietnam from China and Korea are now kept in special center for isolation for 14 days. Passengers who come from Italy and Iran have to declare their travel history and have to undergo health check. The ones suspected will have to be in strict isolation for 14 days. This kind of policy will be applied also for whoever comes from wherever the COVID is reported and spreading seriously in coming week, even The Netherlands if situation there becomes worse. International airports in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City already have refused all flights from Korea since 1st March.

3. SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

The first case of COVID-19 in the Netherlands was reported on 28th February. By 1st March it was said that there have been already 7 cases reported. The advanced condition of public transportation and free border-immigration among EU countries, in this situation, might bring more risks for spreading nCoV. So the number of COVID-19 patients in EU in general

and the Netherlands in particular perhaps will increase in coming weeks. We hope the prevention measures will be applied effectively to minimize the number of infected case.

There is no policy of immigration limit as well as quarantine at the airport in the Netherlands, but if the situation becomes worse, these solution might be considered and applied. If so, all people (whether Dutch citizen or not) who enter the Netherlands from countries where COVID-19 is reported including Vietnam might be quarantined upon arrival.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR THE DONORS AND AMSTERDAM OFFICE

Conclusion

- The situation in Vietnam is still well in control. The risks of nCoV infection in Vietnam is LOW at this moment but it can be more risky in coming weeks.
- The risks that Dutch people bring nCoV from the Netherlands to Vietnam is also quite low at this moment, but it is still unpredictable for next 3 weeks.
- However the risks of nCoV exposure during travel is higher because the outbreak now appears in many countries and WHO also assess the risk at VERY high level although the travel advise is still not negative.
- It is possible that quarantine policy will be applied for passengers who come from the Netherland at internal airports in Vietnam in coming weeks.
- It also might be possible that the quarantine policy will be applied at the airport of the Netherlands for ones who enter from Vietnam.

Recommendation

The analysis above says that we might not really have to worry about the infection for donors in Vietnam but we should think of the possible spreading of COVID by them during international flights and transits. We also cannot ignore the possibility that our donors will have to be quarantined at the airport in Vietnam upon arrival as well as in the Netherlands upon return. And there is a risk that some of them have suspected signs (even not really clear signs of nCoV infection) and will be then kept for isolation. If this happens, it can influence the plan of the visit in Vietnam as well as be very inconvenient for donors when returning home. MCNV needs to be prepared for this circumstance.

In my personal point of view, we should not take any risk, especially since MCNVs' work is to protect and improve health for people. The tour is also not such an urgent mission that the extend that we cannot do it later. So I recommend Amsterdam office and donors to consider to postpone the tour visit to Vietnam until COVID-19 outbreak is completely controlled globally. This might cause some inconvenience and disappointment for our valued donors but I hope they understand the situation and agree that we make this decision because of safety for all.

Quality of evidence for recommendation: **Strong**
Strength of recommendation: **Conditional**