

FACTS REGARDING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

The virus originated in the Hubei province in China, and more specifically in the city of Wuhan. To date nearly 4600 cases have been officially reported, and the death toll has risen to over 130 globally.

No cases have yet been reported in South Africa and the National Department of Health has instituted measures to detect symptoms at important ports of entry like airports. They have also distributed and developed clinical guidelines and case definitions to doctors and nurses in the private and public sectors.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Most patients exhibit signs and symptoms of a common cold (fever, cough and shortness of breath)
- Some others then progress to severe respiratory illness including organ failure
- Symptoms may appear in as little as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure
- The risk is higher for patients who may have underlying medical conditions

ARE THERE DRUGS TO TREAT CORONAVIRUS

- There are no drugs or vaccines currently approved to treat the new virus specifically
- It cannot be treated with anti-biotics

PREVENTION

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitiser
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your mouth if you cough or sneeze with a tissue. Throw the tissue into the bin
- Stay at home if you are ill
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces