BACKGROUND

On 31 December 2019, the WHO China Country Office was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology (unknown cause) detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was identified as the causative virus by Chinese authorities on 7 January 2020. As of Monday 20 January 2020, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission has reported 217 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, including 3 deaths. Four of these cases have been diagnosed outside of China – 2 in Thailand, one in Japan and one in South Korea, following travel to Wuhan, China. There have also now been cases in other cities in China, all with recent travel to Wuhan. Currently the risk to travellers to Wuhan is low, but the situation is under constant review.

On 26 January 2020, A total of 2,014 confirmed 2019-nCoV cases have been reported globally; China (including Hong Kong, Macau and Taipei) 1,985; Japan 3 Republic of Korea 2 Viet Nam 2 Singapore 4 Australia 4 Malaysia 3 Thailand 5 Nepal 1 United States of America 2 France 3.

Of the 1,975 confirmed cases (excluding Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taipei), 324 cases have been reported as severely ill. Fifty-six deaths have been reported to date (52 deaths in Hubei province and 4 from outside Hubei).

As of 5 February 2020, a total of 24,554 confirmed cases globally, 3925 of these cases are new confirmed cases within the last 24 hours. In China alone, 24,363 confirmed, with 3893 new cases within the last 24 hours. 191 confirmed cases from Countries outside of China with 32 of these cases newly confirmed within the last 24 hours. There have been 491 deaths in China and 1 in the Philippines.

Countries that have confirmed Coronavirus cases include:

- China
- Japan
- Thailand
- Singapore
- Republic of Korea
- Australia
- United States of America
- Germany
- Viet Nam
- Malaysia
- France
CAUSES
The source of the outbreak is still under investigation. Preliminary investigations have identified environmental samples positive for 2019-nCoV in Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan City; however some laboratory-confirmed cases did not report visiting this market.

There is ongoing investigation to understand more about this Coronavirus and mode of transmission and how best to manage it but for now, management is symptomatic.

SYMPTOMS
Symptoms of 2019-nCoV are similar to a range of other illnesses such as influenza and include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia and requires immediate medical attention. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.
It is not clear how long symptoms take to show after a person has been infected.

How does 2019-nCoV spread?
2019-nCoV probably emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spread from person to person through.
• the air (from viral particles from a cough or sneeze);
• close personal contact (touching or shaking hands);
• an object or surface with viral particles on it (then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands);

A live animal market in Wuhan is suspected as the original source, but this has not been confirmed.

OBJECTIVES
To prevent importation of Coronavirus into Tokelau
To guide preparation of Tokelau to manage any suspect case in Tokelau and to avoid further transmission within the local population

TRAVEL ADVISORY

1. Travel advisory for passengers from Tokelau travelling to Apia in accordance with Samoa Entry requirements

- As part of Samoa entry requirement, all visitors to Samoa should provide a medical clearance that was done 3 days prior to their departure from their country
- All hospitals in Tokelau will be providing medical checks for outbound passengers from each atoll to Apia and each passenger should bring a medical clearance form with him/her to Apia.
- There will be health screenings in Apia by the Samoa MoH upon arrival at the wharf in Apia and would need to sight these medical clearance for each passenger.

2. Travel advisory for Tokelauans travelling overseas

- Tokelau Public is advised to avoid travelling to countries where cases have been confirmed, which include
  - China
  - Japan
  - Thailand
  - Singapore
  - Republic of Korea
  - Australia
  - United States of America
  - Germany
  - Viet Nam
  - Malaysia
  - France
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Canada
  - India
  - Philippines
  - Russian Federation
  - Italy
  - United Kingdom
  - Cambodia
  - Nepal
  - Sri Lanka
- Finland
- Spain
- Sweden
- Belgium

(The department of Health will provide regular updates with regards to this travel advisory)

- Noting the entry requirement to Samoa, those people that have been to these countries, will need to be in another country where there is no confirmed case of the virus for 14 days prior to travelling to Samoa
- Also noting that people traveling overseas will need to provide a medical clearance 3 days prior to travelling to Samoa irrespective of which country you have travelled to.
- Failure to meet these entry requirements may result in passengers being quarantined in Samoa or deny entry to Samoa.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSENGERS COMING TO TOKELAU

- Every passenger travelling to Tokelau from Apia will need a medical clearance to confirm free of infectious diseases
- Noting the entry requirement for Samoa, individuals travelling from outside of Samoa who are booked to travel to Tokelau, needs to provide a copy of the medical clearance for coronavirus that is required for entry into Samoa, to our Tokelau Health office in Apia or Tokelau Transport officer Apia for confirmation before they are allowed to travel to Tokelau.
- Passengers travelling from China or transit in China will not be allowed to travel to Tokelau
- Tokelau Passengers travelling from countries where there is a confirmed case, will need to be in Samoa for 14 days and provide a medical clearance at the end of these 14 days to confirm free of infectious disease, before they can travel to Tokelau.
- Visitors from countries that have confirmed cases of coronavirus will not be allowed entry to Tokelau.
- Passengers travelling from countries that has not reported any cases of Coronavirus, will need to show medical clearance to confirm free of infectious diseases before they are allowed to travel to Tokelau.
- Individuals who have been living in Samoa for more than 14 days will need medical clearance from Samoa to confirm free of infectious diseases before they can travel to Tokelau (this include those travelling from outside of Samoa but has been in Samoa for more than 14 days)
- Passengers travelling from Tokelau to Apia for less than 14 days can use their medical clearance they brought from Tokelau when entering Samoa.
- Passengers that fail to show medical clearance to confirm free of infectious diseases will not be allowed to travel to Tokelau.
This will be effective from 11th February 2020.

PREVENTATIVE APPROACHES

1. TRAVEL AND BORDER ENTRY RESTRICTIONS
   As discussed above under travel advisory

2. BORDER CONTROL SCREENING
   Noting that border control screening in Apia before the boat departs Apia and in our three atolls when the boat arrives are currently still in effect for measles, so screening for Coronavirus will be just added to the current ongoing screening

   In Apia
   Health team in Apia do screening of all passengers in Apia before passengers depart on the boat and any passenger meeting the suspect case definition for Coronavirus will not be allowed to board the boat to Tokelau. Passenger will be under the TPRS and referral to management in Apia and will travel to Tokelau when cleared from the medical team in Apia.

   Also note the entry requirements for Tokelau as in travel requirements above and this is the responsibility of the travelling passengers.

   On each atoll
   Screening will be done for all passengers upon arrival in each atoll by the local health teams and follow through for the first 2 weeks to ensure these passengers do not import the virus to Tokelau.

   Passengers from Apia bound for the atolls only get off on the designated atoll, which means, passengers from Apia to Atafu do not go ashore in Fakaofo and Nukunonu. Transport team in the respective villages to enforce this restriction in each atoll.

   Passengers from the other atolls travelling to another atoll within Tokelau does not need to be screened at the moment. We will closely monitor the situation and provide further advice if these inter-atoll passengers need to be screened

3. ONGOING SURVEILLANCE

   All hospitals provide weekly reporting as part of the syndromic surveillance to the national team and need to report any new suspect case whenever suspected in any of the hospitals

   Apia health team and all hospitals provides report of every screening in each atoll to the national team and follow up updates on regular follow ups of screened passengers in each atoll for the first 14 days
   National team closely monitor the Coronavirus and provide regular updates to all hospitals
4. **Health education and Awareness**  
   *In the villages*  
   The health team in each atoll continues the ongoing awareness for the whole community on Coronavirus with preventative measures and also provide regular updates base on further development to research and investigation to the nature of the virus.

   *Outside of Tokelau*  
   Use the Tokelau Health face book page and Government of Tokelau website to share information on the preventative approaches and updates on Coronavirus with new updates especially with travel requirements  
   Work closely with the Department of Transport with regards to travelling passengers to Tokelau

   Any person needing further information to contact the respective hospitals or the Tokelau Health department Head office in Nukunonu or Tokelau Health staffs in Apia for further information *(further details of contacts below)*

5. **Hospital preparedness to manage any suspected case**

   All hospitals are prepared to manage any suspected cases with sufficient resources.  
   Infection control and Universal precaution strengthened in all hospitals.

   All hospitals have been advised on preparations for isolation units when there is a suspected case including PPE and management guidelines with check list for all hospitals.

   The Department of health continues to work closely with WHO and other regional organization on the support for laboratory confirmation of any suspect case in Tokelau and to strengthen Tokelau’s preparedness to manage suspect cases in Tokelau.

**CLOSURE OF BORDER WITH SAMOA**

Due to the limited capacity of Tokelau and the limited understanding of the Coronavirus, Tokelau cannot afford to respond and our only strengths are within our preventative approaches. So once there is a suspect case in Samoa, Council of Ongoing Government of Tokelau will be advised to close off the border with Samoa, which means, that there will be no more passengers coming into Tokelau or going out of Tokelau.
There will be opportunity for transfer of needed supplies such as food and medical supplies or fuel from Samoa to Tokelau but it will be under strict guidelines to reduce possible transmission especially when offloading in the respective atolls.

Usual sailing schedule will be suspended and sailing to Tokelau will be on a need basis. Department of Transport works closely with the respective office of the Taupulega to establish any need with the advice of the Department of health in terms of the coronavirus situation at the time.

**ONGOING MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The National PH disease surveillance committee meets once a week (Every Friday) through teleconference to discuss on the progress of the preventative approaches and improve where necessary.

There is a designated reporting and follow up template that each hospital needs to fill and submit on a weekly basis to assist the National PHDSC and if there is any suspicious case to report once they pick up in any of the hospital.

Work closely with the WHO and Pacific Disease Surveillance Network in closely monitoring outbreak around the Pacific and the risk for Tokelau with technical support to strengthen preventative approaches in Tokelau and to strengthen preparations to manage suspect cases in Tokelau.
Contact details:

Dr. Silivia Tavite, Director of Health  
Phone (690)24211;24212  
Email: stdrtavite@gmail.com

Nukunonu  
Dr. Alani Tangitau  
Chief Clinical Advisor/Chief medical officer  
St. Joseph Hospital  
Phone (690)24111  
Email: alanitangitau@yahoo.com

Mr. Alapati Tavite  
Chief Public Health Advisor  
Health Head Office  
Phone (690)24211; 24212  
Email: alapatitavite@gmail.com

Atafu  
Dr. Susana Leitu, Medical Officer  
Lomaloma Hospital  
Phone (690)22112  
Email: leihana@gmail.com

Fakaofo  
Dr. Hla Thein, Medical officer  
Fanaufala Hospital  
Phone (690) 23114  
Email: nickygolf913@gmail.com

Lolo Tuumuli  
Public Health Officer  
Phone (690) 23114  
Email: lolo.tuumuli@tokelau.org.nz

Samoa:  
Liza Kele , Health Manager Apia  
Phone (9690)20822  
Email: liza.lui@tokelau.org.nz
Process for declaration of disease outbreak in Tokelau (taken from the Tokelau National Disease Surveillance and Outbreak response plan)

Tokelau Public health disease surveillance committee
(local medical officers/health managers, local Public health officers, Health Manager - Apia, Public Health Advisor, Chief clinical advisor and Director of Health)

Weekly syndromic reporting from each Hospital in Tokelau

Reporting & Updated Reports to and fro PPHSN (SPC/WHO technical experts)

Official Public Information

Director of Health

Minister of Health

Ongoing Government

Taupulega (3)

Department

3 Hospitals

General Public