

Recommendations for healthcare professionals: Management of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection

What is the new coronavirus?

▪ Epidemic of acute respiratory infections caused by the new coronavirus (**SARS-CoV-2**) originated in China, the highest number of diseases being in the city of Wuhan

▪ The first reported cases occurred in persons who visited the local market selling fish and other live animals, human-to-human transmission was confirmed, and health workers were also infected.

When an infection by Covid-19 is suspected?

When you are treating a patient with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) that occurred within 14 days of their returning from China or a patient with any

respiratory symptoms in contact with a person diagnosed with COVID -19 infection.

How to treat a patient with suspected COVID-19 infection?

▪ Provide the patient with a face mask; separate him/her from other patients in the waiting rooms; investigate them in a separate room.

▪ Follow standard safety precautions, such as airborne, droplet or contact infections: **hand hygiene and PPE: FFP2 or FFP3 respirator, eye protection, coat and gloves**

▪ Contact the catchment infectious ward to ensure further action, including collection of biological material for the diagnosis of COVID-19, in accordance with the Guideline of the Chief Hygienist of the Slovak Republic

▪ Report the case to the appropriate Regional Public Healthcare Authority

Care for patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection:

• Isolate the patient in a single or isolation room

• Use personal protective equipment as in airborne, droplet and contact infections: **FFP2 or FFP3 respirator, eye protection, coat and gloves**

• Wear personal protective equipment when performing aerosol-generating procedures, such as tracheal intubation, bronchoalveolar lavage, other respiratory diagnostic procedures: **properly fitted FFP3 respirator, well-fitting eye protection, gloves, and long sleeve waterproof protective jacket.**

• Healthcare professionals should be constantly monitored for any respiratory symptoms or fever within 14 days of the last contact with a confirmed case.