

Areas with presumed community transmission

The epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak remains in Wuhan, Hubei province, China which accounts for the majority of reported new cases and fatalities. However, the number of confirmed cases reported outside of Hubei and outside of China is rising. In addition, countries outside of China have reported local transmission.

Travellers going to areas of presumed community transmission should adhere to strict hygiene measures, wash hands with water and soap regularly or use alcohol-based hand sanitisers. Avoid touching the face with the hands. Keep distant to sick people and cough and sneeze into the elbow or cover mouth and nose. It should especially be emphasised that people of older age and with underlying conditions should take precautionary measures and adhere to strict hygiene practises.

Travellers returning from areas of presumed community transmission should monitor their health status for 14 days. Should they develop respiratory symptoms, a healthcare specialist should be contacted. If the health status allows, they should preferably contact their healthcare specialist via telephone first, and indicate the travel history before seeking medical attention. Symptomatic people should avoid contact with other people until seen by a health care specialist.

Criteria to initiate laboratory testing of people with acute respiratory infection requiring hospitalisation or not and returning from areas with presumed localised or low level community transmission (Table) should include a case-by-case clinical judgement and be based on national recommendations.

Prompt case confirmation is necessary to ensure rapid isolation of cases, initiate effective contact tracing and implement infection prevention and control measures according to national recommendations, as well as collect relevant epidemiological and clinical information.

ECDC's assessment as of 25 February 2020 has identified areas with presumed community transmission (Table). This list will be reviewed regularly with any changes published on our website <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/areas-presumed-ongoing-community-transmission-2019-ncov>

Table: Areas with presumed community transmission of COVID-19 as of 25 February 2020

Country/Area	Assessment of community transmission
China	Widespread
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*	Localised or low-level
Iran**	Localised or low-level
Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, Piedmont, Veneto)**	Localised or low-level
Japan**	Localised or low-level
Singapore*	Localised or low-level
South Korea**	Localised or low-level

* based on statement of health authorities

** based on epidemiological situation assessment of a 14 day period