SYNOPSIS
02/03/2020

Review of “Updated understanding of the outbreak of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China”


One-Minute Summary

- Based on a comprehensive search from Chinese and worldwide official websites and announcements, the authors summarized the epidemiology of the outbreak in China as of January 25, 2020, reporting 1,975 confirmed cases and 56 deaths (2.84% case fatality).
- The authors reported on an early cohort of 17 fatal cases of 2019-nCoV infection (reported up to January 22, 2020). There were 13 male and 4 female patients with a median age of 75 years old (range = 48–89 years of age). Eleven of the fatal cases (64.7%) had co-morbidities.
- The most common symptom reported in these 17 fatalities was fever (64.7%), followed by cough (52.9%).
- The median time from first symptom onset to death was 14 days (range = 6–41 days). The time from symptom onset to death was lower in those ≥ 70 years of age (median = 11.5 days, range = 6–19 days) compared to those < 70 years of age (median = 20 days, range = 10–41 days) (P = 0.033).

Additional Information

- Authors performed a comprehensive search from Chinese and worldwide official websites and announcements (from December 1, 2019 through 9:30 am on January 26, 2020 (Beijing time).
- For context, the case fatality rate is estimated to be 9.6% for SARS-CoV and 34.4% for MERS-CoV.

PHO Reviewer’s Comments

The information for this article is derived from website postings, and therefore may be missing information that has not been made publicly available. In addition, the accuracy of the information is difficult to determine.
Citation

Disclaimer
This document was developed by Public Health Ontario (PHO). PHO provides scientific and technical advice to Ontario’s government, public health organizations and health care providers. PHO’s work is guided by the current best available evidence at the time of publication.

The application and use of this document is the responsibility of the user. PHO assumes no liability resulting from any such application or use.

This document may be reproduced without permission for non-commercial purposes only and provided that appropriate credit is given to PHO. No changes and/or modifications may be made to this document without express written permission from PHO.

Public Health Ontario
Public Health Ontario is a Crown corporation dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians and reducing inequities in health. Public Health Ontario links public health practitioners, front-line health workers and researchers to the best scientific intelligence and knowledge from around the world. For more information about PHO, visit publichealthontario.ca.