



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

**Medical and Scientific Department**  
Ref. No. RBU/cfr

To :

IF Medical Commission Chairpersons

Lausanne, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Further to my letter of 30<sup>th</sup> January, and in light of the ongoing outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID – 19), I would like to update you again on the IOC's position. Countermeasures against infectious diseases constitute an important part of plans to host safe and secure sport events. I hope you find the attached [WHO paper](#) from a WHO ad hoc expert group on "Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak" useful.

The IOC is in close communication with the WHO, the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission Games Group public health experts, Tokyo 2020 and the Japanese health authorities in order to monitor the development of this outbreak and advised countermeasures.

The risk to individual health is still low, but there is an increased risk of significant travel disruption and consequently more international sport events and meetings have been cancelled. An increasing number of countries have instituted screening and quarantine measures for travelers arriving to their territories. Travelers from countries with cases of 2019nCoV infection but with no symptoms of infection do not normally require any quarantine measures or restrictions under WHO guidelines. However, restrictions are being imposed by governments (including USA, Japan and Australia).

The IOC continue to recommend to staff and advisors travelling anywhere in the world to follow the WHO advice listed below:

**WHO advice:**

It is recommended following these measures to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections:

- Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections;
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment;
- Avoid unprotected contact with farm or wild animals;
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues, masks or clothing, and wash their hands). Face masks are not recommended for healthy individuals with no symptoms.

WHO does not recommend any specific health measures such as isolation unless travelers experience any symptoms suggestive of acute respiratory illness either during or after travelling, in which case they are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their healthcare provider. It is advised to offer flu vaccination (if in flu season) to reduce the risk of overlapping symptoms.

We remain at your disposal for any clarifications that you may require and will continue to provide updates of the IOC's position as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Budgett', written in a cursive style.

Dr Richard Budgett  
IOC Medical and Scientific Director