

The European Haemophilia Consortium (EHC) is closely following the recent developments on the emergence of the coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, as it relates to:

1. Infection risks in Europe,
2. Safety of plasma proteins used in the manufacturing of treatment products, and
3. Potential risks with international travel.

### **Infection risks in Europe**

The EHC refer readers to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), which has been closely following developments regarding 2019-nCoV. On 31 January 2020, the ECDC issued its third Rapid Risk Assessment update on this outbreak. On the basis of the latest information available the ECDC assesses that, for the European region:

- *there is a moderate-to-high likelihood of additional imported cases in the EU/EEA;*
- *the likelihood of observing further limited human-to-human transmission within the EU/EEA is estimated as very low to low if cases are detected early and appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) practices are implemented, particularly in healthcare settings in EU/EEA countries;*
- *assuming that cases in the EU/EEA are detected in a timely manner and that rigorous IPC measures are applied, the likelihood of sustained human-to-human transmission within the EU/EEA is currently very low to low;*
- *the late detection of an imported case in an EU/EEA country without the application of appropriate infection prevention and control measures would result in the high likelihood of human-to-human transmission, therefore in such a scenario the risk of secondary transmission in the community setting is estimated to be high.*

The full ECDC Risk Assessment is available [here](#).

### **Safety of plasma proteins used in the manufacturing of treatment products**

The 2019-nCoV virus is large in size (120 nm in diameter) and has a lipid envelope. This means that current viral inactivation and removal steps used in the manufacturing process of clotting factor concentrates (CFCs) and virally-inactivated fresh frozen plasma (FFP) should be effective in eliminating this virus.

The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) , an international trade association representing private plasma collectors and commercial manufacturers of plasma-derived treatments, including plasma-derived CFCs, issued a statement on 30 January 2020, which is available [here](#).

### **Potential risks with international travel**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a global health emergency regarding 2019-nCoV on 30 January 2020. The EHC refers readers to the WHO 'one-stop-shop' information page for 2019-nCoV, available [here](#) in English, French, Spanish and Russian. Regarding potential risks with international travel, the EHC refers readers to the WHO advice for international travel in relation to this outbreak, available [here](#). Regarding the upcoming 2020 WFH Congress to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 14-17 June 2020, the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) issued a statement on 31 January 2020, available [here](#), citing no current travel or health directives to note regarding the Congress, with updates to be posted on their website and by email.



The EHC will continue to monitor the situation. If you have questions about your treatment, please contact your healthcare provider.