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Dear Members of the ECDC Management Board,

The rationale behind is that the high number of cases reported in the last few days and the reporting of 7 cases outside China (Thailand 4, Japan 1, South Korea 1, US 1) is of specific concern. Therefore, there is an additional workload for ECDC to be expected in the coming days – weeks: daily update of the threat page on the ECDC website, regular update(s) of the rapid risk assessment ‘Cluster of pneumonia cases caused by a novel coronavirus, Wuhan, China’ (first update by 22 January 2020). ECDC has issued an update of the RAGIDA guidelines for MERS-CoV and the fact sheet on coronaviruses. A brief identification and assessment of the different possible scenarios in this outbreak has been established by the strategic analyst during the PHE 0 – Alert phase. This should now be further elaborated with a specific emphasis on the scenario where cases are imported/detected in the EU (MS preparedness, laboratory capacity, harmonised prevention and control measures) and the expected impact.

Best regards,

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