



ECDC Advisory Forum

Extraordinary Meeting

Audioconference, 4 March 2020

Background papers for discussions on COVID-19

Document number: AF Extraordinary 2/02		Date: 3 March 2020
Summary:	The accompanying papers are provided as background documentation for discussion in the Advisory Forum on the case definition, surveillance and testing strategies for COVID-19 in the EU/EE. The Advisory Forums opinions and advice will be sought in particular on the following topics: • Case definition and classification of countries with respect to transmission of COVID-19 • The approach to testing for COVID-19 for the detection and management of cases in the current response context, and to the timescale for the adoption of COVID-19 testing and reporting as part of ILI and ARI surveillance at the national and EU level	
Action:	The Advisory Forum is asked to provide its opinions and advice on the topics listed above, based on the information provided in the accompanying papers, and a presentation by ECDC on the current epidemiological situation and risk assessment.	
Background:	As of 2 March 2020, WHO had identified 26 countries that had local transmission of COVID-19, in addition to the situation in (10)(2a). Since 31 December 2019 and as of 3 March 2020, 90 663 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions in the affected countries) have been reported, including 3 124 deaths, from 74 countries. 2 495 cases have been reported from 27 countries in the EU/EEA, the (10)(2a), with more than 10 cases reported from: (10)(2a) (1 835), (10)(2a) (178), (10)(2a) (157), (10)(2a) (114), (10)(2a) (40), (10)(2a) (30), (10)(2a) (25), (10)(2a) (18), Netherlands (18), and (10)(2a) (15). In the EU/EEA, (10)(2a) has reported the largest number of cases (1 835 as of 3 March) and deaths (52 as of 3 March – crude case fatality of 2.8%). On 3 March	

	2020, the (10)(2a) authorities announced updated, wide-ranging measures to address the COVID-19 situation in that country, including restrictions on movements, mass gatherings, commercial activities and closures of schools in the most affected areas, as well as measures in other regions and the country as a whole. Similar, but somewhat more drastic, measures were adopted in (10)(2a) where there is some evidence that such measures have resulted in a reduction in incidence. The experience in (10)(2a) and (10)(2a) (among other countries) serves as an indicator of the potential impact of COVID-19 and the measures taken once community transmission is established.
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