Information on protection to prevent infections

There are currently increasing numbers of cases of a disease caused by a new type of coronavirus in China (2019-nCoV). At the moment the province of Hubei, to which the metropolis of Wuhan belongs, is particularly affected. Due to the current development the Federal Foreign Office of Germany has issued a partial travel warning for Hubei province. Also trips to other parts of China should be postponed. Other countries have meanwhile reported on infections. In Germany, the first cases were confirmed at the end of January 2020.

Important questions and answers about the coronavirus (2019-nCoV):

How likely is it that further cases will occur in Germany?
The import of individual cases to Germany is possible. Individual transmissions within Germany are also possible. Currently, the risk of infection in Germany is considered low.

When is there a justified suspicion?
If persons have clinical signs such as fever, respiratory infections and if they were in the PR China within the last 14 days before the illness or have had contact with such persons, a suspicion is justified.

How are the viruses transmitted?
Corona viruses are mainly transmitted by droplet infection. It is currently assumed that after infection it can take up to 14 days before signs of the disease appear. Within these 14 days the virus can already be spread further.

Is there a therapy/vaccine?
A specific therapy does not yet exist. The symptoms are being treated. Vaccines against corona viruses are in development but not yet available.

Protective measures - What can the individual do?
The most effective measures for personal protection as well as for the protection of other people from infection are: good coughing and sneezing etiquette, staying at a distance (about two meters) from people suspected of being ill as well as proper hand hygiene. If symptoms of the disease occur, please stay at home and contact the responsible health office.

Is an additional hand disinfection useful?
In general, hand disinfection is not necessary. Thorough hand washing is sufficient: Wet your hands – soap all over for 20 - 30 seconds – rinse thoroughly – dry carefully.

Further information (see QR-Codes):
- Information about the corona virus from the Federal Foreign Office
- Information about hygiene from the Federal Centre for Health Education
- Advice for the public from the World Health Organization
- Information of the health offices of the City of Essen and the City of Duisburg (only in German)