

## Dear Staff,

You must have heard of the new coronavirus causing an epidemic in China and isolated infections in other countries. News are updated hourly, so the present short summary has been compiled to provide the staff of Wigner RCP with verified information on the current situation (28 February 2020). This information shall be updated next week and posted on the Wigner RCP's website.

The coronavirus poses a problem that is of particular interest to us since Wigner RCP has an important international presence. Our researchers regularly travel abroad and receive foreign visits. It is important to note that seasonal flu has similar symptoms and requires similar preventive measures, so the recommended precautions protect everyone's health, independently of the coronavirus itself.

The **National Center for Public Health** provides constantly updated, detailed and factual information about the current status of the epidemic, which you will find at the following link: <https://www.nnk.gov.hu/index.php/koronavirus-tajekoztatok>

The management of Wigner RCP is constantly monitoring official notices and, should it become necessary, will take the necessary steps as an employer. It is hoped that the epidemic can be localised and overcome before Hungary is directly faced with an epidemic of its own. However, we recommend following the present notice.

### **These are the most important hygiene recommendations for previous viral epidemics issued by the epidemiology office:**

- In case of contracting a contagious disease, remain in your home until you have fully recovered.
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue. The use of single use tissue paper is recommended.
- Used tissues are to be placed into your bag or a sealable waste bag immediately.
- Wash your hands often, using soap and warm water, especially after blowing your nose and throwing away the used tissue. This can prevent germs that are invisible to the naked eye from being transferred from your hands to various objects and surfaces and from there, to other people's hands and mucous membranes.
- Regularly clean objects that you use frequently and surfaces that you touch frequently (desks, doorhandles, etc.)
- Avoid crowded spaces, especially crowded enclosed spaces. Keep a minimum of 1m distance from other people.
- Avoid shaking hands – Indian or Japanese style greetings are recommended.
- Avoid using lifts.
- Aerate enclosed spaces often and thoroughly.
- Should you present with flu-like symptoms, use a single use face mask whenever you absolutely must leave your home, you are in close contact with others or waiting for a medical examination. This can prevent you infecting others. It is important to note that wearing a face mask does not substitute a medical examination.
- Protective equipment cannot guarantee a 100% protection, but provided it is used correctly, it might help prevent infection.

### **Information on travel and operation:**

The importance and frequency of international travel is continuously on the rise worldwide and Hungary is no exception. Heightened international traffic promotes the rapid propagation of infectious diseases on Earth. Measures taken to limit international travel are rather costly, their introduction is complicated and they are not sustainable on the long term. In harmony with international agreements, the individual's right to free movement must be respected in as much as is possible.

The National Center for Public Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provide constant information on the current domestic and international epidemiologic situation and the necessary preventive measures. If possible, avoid travelling to the region hit by the epidemic and take special care when receiving guests from there. It is recommended to conduct one or two-day long meetings via videoconference.

Heads of units ensuring the continuous operation of Wigner RCP (Secretariat, Finance Department, Computer Center, Wigner Data Center) are required to draw up their internal procedures. These procedures will be published on the Wigner RCP website shortly, where this document and all its updates will also be available.

## **The latest travel recommendations to China, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (27/02/2020)**

*„...The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has classed the entire Chinese province of Hubei under **risk category I, not recommended for travel**, while travellers to all of the country are advised to **exercise caution and prudence and, if possible, travel to China in case of an urgency only**. Since visiting the country involves an increased security risk, the entirety of China, including Hong Kong and Macao have been classed as a **territory under increased risk category II**.*

*Given that a number of airlines have suspended their flights to the various Chinese cities, Hungarian citizens currently there are recommended to contact their airline or the travel agency that has issued their plane ticket. They should also constantly monitor what airlines or other travel arrangements are available for leaving China. ...”*

<https://konzulizsolgalat.kormany.hu/koronavirus>

The above link contains further country-specific information, notably with respect to Italy and China. The ministry is continuously updating the website, so please visit it if you need up-to-date information.

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## **Recommendations by the National Center for Public Health (27/02/2020)**

**Individuals returning from Milan or the carnival of Venice who have no medical symptoms do not need to be admitted to sick leave and may continue their everyday life.** It is important to indicate that should they present with acute respiratory symptoms (cough and/or shortness of breath), fever (at least 38°C) within 14 days of their return, they should remain at home and inform their GP.

<https://www.nnk.gov.hu/index.php/lakossagi-tajekoztatok/koronavirus/koronavirus-tajekoztatok-haziorvosoknak>

**The National Center for Public Health (NNK) has created green numbers that can be called free of charge, in order to respond to public enquiries concerning the coronavirus in a fast and professional manner.**

**06-80-277-455**

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**These public information lines are going to be available from 8am on 3 February 2020, any day of the week.**

The numbers can be dialled from both mobile and landline phones. The lines are operated by the NNK and experts provide information on the new coronavirus. The aim of the service is providing and promoting an efficient, professional and timely reaction in the interest of prevention.

The public is requested to call the green numbers only if they have not found satisfactory answers to their questions on the websites of the NNK. Continuously updated information on the new coronavirus is available at:

<https://www.nnk.gov.hu/index.php/lakossagi-tajekoztatok/koronavirus>      <http://egeszseg.hu/koronavirus-tajekoztatok>.

<https://www.nnk.gov.hu/index.php/lakossagi-tajekoztatok/koronavirus/458-koronavirus-hetfotol-ingenesen-hivhato-telefonszamon-kerhet-tanacsot>

Best regards, Péter J. Lévai, director general

Budapest, 28 February 2020