



## Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak: communication to delegates

28.02.2020/ Brussels

Given the current Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, the WCO Secretariat wishes to communicate a number of recommended health and safety precautions for delegates coming to Belgium:

### 1. Meetings at the WCO:

- At this time, following the WHO's recommendations, the Secretariat is not restricting participation by delegates in meetings held at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The travel measures in application are those being enforced by the competent Belgian authorities.
- Member administrations are recommended to take the travel precautions they deem necessary.

### 2. Recommended precautionary measures (based on World Health Organization (WHO) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) guidelines), applicable to everyone:

- **Regularly wash your hands with soap and water (for a minimum of 20 seconds) or use alcohol-based hand rub; do so immediately after using public transport and prior to entering your home or the WCO.**
- Everyone arriving at WCO Headquarters via the main entrance will be actively invited to use the hand sanitizer dispenser available at reception.
- We advise you to pack alcohol-based hand rub (for disinfecting hands) and alcohol wipes (for disinfecting surfaces) when you travel.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Maintain a distance of at least one (1) metre (3 feet) between you and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Frequently clean/disinfect objects and surfaces that have been touched in the home and work environment.
- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and disposing of the used tissue immediately.
- Healthy people only need to wear a mask if they are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection.
- Do not come to the WCO if you have a respiratory illness.

3. If you have had any known or suspected contact with a person infected with the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), or if you develop any symptoms, please contact your general practitioner (GP) for urgent advice and care. If you are in Brussels and you do not have a GP here, you can find a doctor on call by ringing 02/201.22.22 or by



consulting the following website: <http://www.gbbw.be/index.php/en>. Please call 112 in the event of a medical emergency. Always inform the caregiver about your recent travel history and do not go to a clinic without prior telephone contact (if in a clinic, ask to sit in a separate room; do not stay in a waiting room with other people);

4. The Secretariat has produced a flyer on the above-mentioned preventive measures that will be distributed to delegates attending meetings at the WCO.

The WCO Secretariat will continue to monitor the situation closely, in order to help keep its staff and delegates safe.

For updates on the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), please visit the WHO website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

For more information when travelling to Belgium, you may call the helpline (0800 /14689) of the 'Centre de Crise Belge' or visit their website: [www.info-coronavirus.be](http://www.info-coronavirus.be).