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January 24, 2020

Coronavirus Infection Update

Dear Future Care Clients,

The number of cases of coronavirus being reported continues to increase while China takes unprecedented actions to curb the spread of the virus. Please refer to our previous bulletin and let this serve as an update.

We recommend that new crewmembers should not be brought from China at this time. Crew in route should be isolated for 48 hours upon arrival, questioned as to how they feel and have their temperature taken before releasing to work. They should be questioned about contacts with ill people in the recent past. If they appear ill or have had contact with anyone in China with a respiratory illness within the prior ten days, they should not board the vessel – confine them to a hotel room for 48 hours to see what further illness, if any, develops.

There are now at least two reported cases in the US in persons having traveled to Wuhan – neither has died. We anticipate a number of additional cases will surface over the next few weeks. There is not much detailed information available regarding transmission, whether people can be infected without symptoms and, if so, are they contagious and or the length of the incubation period; *e.g.* if you came from China and you are not ill, can it be assumed you will not become ill?

There are still no specific treatments and a vaccine is likely at least a year away – so, all treatment is supportive as outlined in previously .

We suspect that a number of cases will surface over the next few months because the symptoms are not that severe, and people are able to travel and move about. SARS and MERS became limited infections because the mortality rate was high and people became very sick, very quickly – far less mobile.

We see little reason for alarm at this point and recommend standard precautions, including isolating crewmembers who state they are not feeling well. Crewmembers should wash hands frequently for 30-60 seconds; cough and sneeze into arm/sleeve, covering mouth and nose and stay in cabin if sick.

A flu vaccine is recommended. The approaching flu season is anticipated to be severe, especially Influenza B, in a season where the vaccine has not been as effective as expected. It is still important to get vaccinated. The large number of flu cases is going to create confusion and concern if the number of coronavirus cases increases as symptoms overlap.

For additional information please contact physicians@futurecareinc.com. To refer a specific crewmember medical incident please continue to email our Contact Center at [<firstresponse@futurecareinc.com>](mailto:firstresponse@futurecareinc.com) .

Thank you.

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