



## Step 2 : Reading an article

### The 2019 Coronavirus : how Serious ?

In December, 2019 a virus-like pneumonia of unknown aetiology appeared in a village in Wuhan, China. By January, 2020 a new strain of coronavirus had been discovered, one which differed from previous coronaviruses (SARS and MERS). Coronaviruses which were first identified in the mid-1960s, are named after the crown-like spikes on their surface. There are currently seven coronaviruses that can infect people as well as several others that only affect animals.

Coronaviruses are classified as zoonotic, because they are transmitted between animals and people. SARS-CoV was found to be transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV is transmitted from dromedary camels to humans.

By 10 January, 2020 WHO had published interim guidance for all countries to help them prepare for the virus and monitor those who were already sick. Guidance was also given on effective monitoring of the disease and the maintenance of supplies. Although initial guidance suggested that travel restrictions were unnecessary, by the end of January WHO had declared the new coronavirus a global health emergency with almost 10,000 confirmed cases in China.

The clinical signs and symptoms of 2019-nCoV disease include fever, coughing and difficulty breathing with the additional radiological findings of pneumonia. Patients may present with a range of symptoms from mild respiratory illness to acute respiratory distress syndrome and sepsis.

Because there is no specific treatment for the disease, patient management focuses on supportive care and standard infection control precautions such as regular hand washing, covering the mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs and avoiding contact with anyone showing signs of respiratory distress. As yet, there are no vaccines against coronaviruses.

**1- Match each paragraph to the corresponding title :**

1. Guidance for countries
2. Infection control precautions
3. Origin of the virus
4. Clinical signs and symptoms
5. Transmission of the virus

**2- Find out the English equivalents in the text :**

en forme de couronne :  
dromadaire :  
surveillance :  
maladie :  
approvisionnement :

septicémie :  
grave :  
modéré :  
soin  
urgence sanitaire :

**3- Complete the mind map with pieces of information taken from the text :**

