Dear colleagues,

We would like to provide you with a brief update on the novel Coronavirus infections.

- Yesterday WHO issued an interim case definition to help countries strengthen health protection measures against the new virus. The case definition, based on the cases so far, includes criteria for identifying a 'patient under investigation', a 'probable case' and a 'confirmed case'. These criteria are based on clinical, epidemiological and laboratory indicators. Posted on the WHO website: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/index.html

- A phylogenetic tree constructed with partial sequences from the polymerase gene (nsp12) of representative coronaviruses from different groups was published on 25 September 2012 on the HPA website: http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics-InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/RespiratoryViruses/NovelCoronavirus/respPartialgeneticsequenceofnovelcoronavirus/

- WHO is collaborating with relevant laboratories to develop testing algorithms and produce clinically validated assays for real-time detection of the novel coronavirus.

We will keep the network informed about new developments as they arise.

Kind regards,
The EuroFlu team