

WHO-China report setting the stage for the world

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf>

This Joint Mission report includes the following relevant statements that set the stage for how the world responded:

Key highlights

"COVID-19 is a **zoonotic virus**...bats appear to be the reservoir...but the intermediate host(s) has not yet been identified."

Wuhan seafood market is mentioned. "As of 25 February, an animal source has not yet been identified"

"there is no known pre-existing **immunity** in humans" assumed because it is a new virus.

"**genomes**...closest relationship was with the bat **SARS-like** coronavirus strain BatCov RaTG13, identity 96%"

"**Virus isolation** was conducted with various cell lines"

"The cellular infectivity of the isolated viruses could be completely neutralized by the sera collected from convalescent patients" i.e. implies can develop **immunity**.

Case the median age is 51 years

"COVID-19 is **transmitted** via droplets and fomites during close unprotected contact"...Airborne spread has not been reported"

"**human-to-human transmission** ... is largely occurring in families"

"China has a policy of meticulous case and contact identification" i.e. **contact tracing**

"all **children** tested were negative for COVID-19" data " suggest that there is a relatively low attack rate in this age group".

"**Symptoms** of COVID-19 are non-specific and the disease presentation can range from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe pneumonia and death."

"People with COVID-19 generally develop signs and symptoms... on an average of 5-6 days after infection (mean incubation period 5-6 days, range **1-14 days**)."

"Approximately **80%** of laboratory confirmed patients have had mild to

moderate disease"...6.1% were critical.

Asymptomatic infection has been reported"...and rarely go on to develop disease." "The proportion of truly asymptomatic infections is unclear but appears to be relatively rare and does not appear to be a major driver of transmission."

"Individuals at highest risk for severe disease and death include people aged over 60 years and those with **underlying conditions**."

"As of 20 February, 2114 of the 55,924 laboratory confirmed cases have died (crude fatality ratio [CFR2] **3.8%**)".

"**Mortality** increases with age, with the highest mortality among people over 80 years of age."..."While patients who reported no comorbid conditions had a CFR of 1.4%."