Information for flight crews on the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)  
(as of 30.01.2020)

Actual situation
In the central Chinese city of Wuhan, there has been an extraordinary accumulation of pneumonia, caused by a previously unknown coronavirus (2019-nCoV). In addition to Wuhan, further cases have been confirmed in several major Chinese cities. Outside China, only a few cases have been confirmed by the national authorities.

What is the situation in Switzerland?
According to the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, it is possible that people who are already infected but not yet ill may enter Switzerland.

How is the virus transmitted?
2019-nCoV is transmitted from person to person in close contact. This happens mainly through droplet infection: when a person sneezes or coughs, viruses from one person can get onto the mucous membranes of nose, mouth and eyes of another person. The viruses also survive for a few hours in tiny droplets on hands or surfaces, which can then come into contact with one’s own mucous membranes by touching one’s face.

After infection with the 2019-nCoV viruses, it takes up to 14 days before the first signs of disease appear. During this time one can already be contagious.

What symptoms does 2019-nCoV cause?
In the beginning, similar to influenza, an unspecific malaise, tiredness and fever often occurs. This is usually followed by respiratory symptoms, typically a dry cough. Cold and sore throat have been observed only very rarely (this rather speaks for a “common cold”).

In milder cases the symptoms subside after a few days. In the case of a severe course of the disease, shortness of breath or pneumonia occurs after about a week. The people affected by a severe course of the disease are mainly elderly people and people with pre-existing chronic illness.

How do I deal with passengers who have contracted the illness?
If your passengers include people with acute respiratory problems (coughing, difficulties breathing) and fever who have been in an affected area1 in the last 14 days, the following measures are indicated:

- Minimise contact between passengers, cabin crew and the sick person. If possible, separate the sick person from others (≥ 2 metre away) and appoint a crew member to take care of the sick person.
- Offer the sick person a protective face mask.
- Treat all bodily fluids (for example respiratory secretions, diarrhoea, vomit or blood) as if they were infectious.
- If you attend to a sick passenger or touch bodily fluids or potentially contaminated surfaces, wear disposable gloves and a protective face mask. Remove the gloves carefully so as to avoid contaminating yourself, and then wash your hands with soap and water. If no soap and water are available, use alcohol hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol).
- Dispose of gloves and other disposable items that have been in contact with the sick person or bodily fluids in a plastic bag and seal it.
- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces in accordance with the airline’s protocol.
- Notify the airport of arrival of the suspected case.

Do special preventive measures have to be taken for flight crews?
Washing hands frequently protects against viral infections. No special measures are indicated, and in particular there is no need for crew members to wear protective face masks in the course of their routine work.

No quarantine measures are recommended for healthy personnel arriving from areas in which 2019-nCoV has been confirmed. If acute respiratory problems (coughing, difficulties breathing) and fever occurs in such a person within 14 days, the hotline (see below) should be called.

Further questions?
The Federal Office of Public Health has set up a telephone hotline - 058 463 00 00 - for questions about 2019-

---

1 For a definition of the areas affected, please see www.bag.admin.ch/novel-coronavirus
nCoV. Further information on 2019-nCoV can also be found on the following websites:

- World Health Organization (WHO): https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus