TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEES

TO ALL STUDY COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

Paris, February 7th, 2020

Information related to Coronavirus

1. Background

In view of the increasing spread of the new Coronavirus CIGRE is issuing the following guidelines, which will also be posted on the CIGRE website and regularly reviewed and revised based on recommendations from WHO.

2. CIGRE meetings

To date, the large majority of scheduled CIGRE meetings for the period of February, March, April and May, are maintained.

This concerns in particular the Steering Committee, Technical Council, and AORC.

The members from China may be impacted by the outbreak.

For all other meetings not known by the Central Office, WG meetings for example, the decision is up to the group Convenor and the host. Please contact them for confirmation.

Experts who are not allowed to travel due to corporate policy, country specific restrictions or do not wish to attend for personal reasons, are invited to participate remotely. National Committee Representatives remote participation to meetings provides the same voting rights and participation rights.

Organizers of meetings are asked to make available hand sanitizers and face masks for participating experts, to be used at their own discretion. All experts are requested to check national travel restrictions prior to planning their physical attendance at meetings.

3. Attendance to meetings and travels

We ask all experts who have a fever, cough and/or difficulty breathing to not travel/participate in CIGRE meetings or visit CIGRE premises, and to seek immediate medical attention.

To reduce exposure and transmission to the new Coronavirus, WHO recommends the following:

- Frequently wash hands with soap or disinfect them with hand sanitizer;
- When coughing or sneezing cover your mouth with a tissue – throw tissue immediately away and wash hands;
- Avoid close contact with anybody who has a fever or cough;
- If you have a fever, a cough or difficulty breathing seek immediate medical care, don’t travel or participate in meetings; wear a face mask to avoid spread of the disease.
4. FAQs

What are the symptoms of the new Coronavirus?

Symptoms typically include fatigue and fever, followed by dry cough and difficulty breathing. Initial symptoms resemble those of the flu without the runny nose or throat ache. One person in five develops more severe illness.

How does the virus spread?

Viruses such as the flu, common cold or the coronavirus are transmitted through micro droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. They reach the mucous membranes of mouth, nose and eyes of a person in proximity (less than 1 meter). For this reason, infected persons should use a basic protective mask to hinder the spread of the disease.

How can I protect myself?

• Frequently clean hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water;
• When coughing or sneezing cover your mouth and nose with a tissue – throw the tissue immediately away and wash your hands;
• Avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough;
• Ordinary masks don’t offer protection to a healthy person as they are not able to filter the virus;
• Masks are best worn by an infected person to limit the spread of micro droplets.

What if we have visitors from China?

The likelihood that a visitor to CIGRE meeting is infected is extremely small. If you are still worried, follow WHO recommendations to reduce exposure and transmission. In addition, experts with fever and a cough are asked to abstain from participating in meetings or visiting CIGRE premises.

You will find more information on the links below:

https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Best regards

Philippe ADAM

Secretary General