

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS: SITUATION IN BRAZIL (AS AT 4 FEBRUARY 2020)

Situation in Brazil

As at 4 February 2020, in Brazil, 13 suspected cases of novel coronavirus ([2019-nCov](#)) cases were ruled out while 15 suspected cases are currently under investigation in four states in the South and Southeast regions, but none of them have been confirmed. Seven of these cases are in the State of Sao Paulo, home of South America's busiest airport (Guarulhos Cumbica) and seaport (Santos).

Response from Brazilian health authorities

Ministry of Health's [ANVISA](#) (National Health Surveillance Agency) defined measures for increased surveillance and control to be adopted in the ports, airports and ground crossings:

- Guidance to sanitary inspection and healthcare staffs about the use of PPE and increased sensibility for detection and management of suspected or probable cases;
- Reinforcement of contingency plans and preparedness for immediate reporting of suspected cases at the points of entry;
- Intensification of cleaning and disinfection routines and procedures at ports, airport terminals and aircrafts and use of PPE by cleaning workers; and
- Addressing passengers, in Portuguese, English and Mandarin, through airport PA systems on the risks and measures to be taken to avoid transmission

Preventive measures in Brazilian ports

ANVISA is not implementing any specific controls of vessels arriving at Brazilian ports which are otherwise operating normally. Nonetheless, it issued [Technical Note 8/2020/ SEI/ GIMTV/ GGPAF/ DIRE5/ANVISA](#) (in Portuguese only) providing for sanitary measures to be adopted. With regards to vessels arriving from abroad, the following measures are to be taken:

- Vessels whose previous ports of call in the past 30 days include China must provide a copy of the medical logbook when applying for the Free Pratique Certificate
- The Maritime Declaration of Health, which presentation was already mandatory under the [IHR 2005](#), must be carefully filled out by the master and analysed by the health authority before clearing the vessel for operation
- In case of suspected contamination by 2019-nCoV, the free pratique must be granted on board, providing there are no sanitary deficiencies. The patient should be isolated, ideally in a cabin, and wear a [medical mask](#) until the case is investigated by the health authorities. If the case is not discarded, the authority will determine whether the infected person will be quarantined onboard or removed to one of the referral hospitals designated by the Ministry of Health
- All persons working aboard visiting vessels, including port workers, pilots and local authorities, are advised to wear PPE when in direct contact with travellers arriving from China

Advice to vessels arriving from abroad

The Ministry of Health follows the protocols issued by WHO and maintains a [dashboard](#) (in Portuguese) with an account of the suspected, discarded and confirmed cases for public access. As in other international outbreaks of transmissible diseases, it is expected that health controls in the Brazilian ports will be increased. Therefore, vessels arriving from overseas must ensure full adherence to the IHR 2005, particularly concerning [vaccination cards](#) and [ship sanitation certificates](#).