The World Health Organisation (WHO) has placed the risk of the nCoV event to be very high in China, high at the regional level and moderate at the global level.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:
• On 21 January 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus. Currently WHO IHR Emergency Committee is meeting to discuss possibility of declaring the outbreak A Public Health Emergency of International Concern
• A PHEIC is declared if an extraordinary event poses a public health threat to other nations through the spread of disease and requires a more robust coordinated international response.
• The risk of transmission to the Caribbean is LOW
• WHO, CDC have assessed the risk level low but this may change in coming days based on international spread.

SITUATION UPDATE: (Source: WHO – Situation Report #3, 23 January 2020)
• A total of 581 confirmed cases have been reported for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) globally;
• Of the 581 cases reported, 571 cases were reported from China;
• Cases have been reported in Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Taipei Municipality, China, Macau Special Administrative Region, United States of America and the Republic of Korea; All had travel history to Wuhan;
• Of the 571 confirmed cases in China, 375 cases were confirmed from Hubei Province;
• Of the 571 cases, 95 cases are severely ill ;
• Seventeen deaths have been reported (all from Hubei Province).

REGIONAL ACTIONS:
• The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is monitoring developments and working closely with its international health partners to respond to this health threat and provide timely advice and support to the preparedness activities of Caribbean Member States.
• The National Disaster Management Offices across the region have been advised and are engaging in local readiness actions together with the Health Disaster Coordinators, Ministries of Health.
• CDEMA and the Regional Response Mechanism Partners will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates if the situation warrants.