



REPORTING SARS-COV-2 TO THE OIE

Reporting obligations of OIE Members are intended to support:

- Early warning surveillance for animal health events.
- Understanding of dynamic epidemiology for animal health events.
- Understanding of control measures taken in response to events, and their impact.
- Analysis of risks that other Members may be exposed to.

SARS-CoV-2 is an *emerging disease* which means, as defined by the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, “a new occurrence in an [animal](#) of a disease, [infection](#) or [infestation](#), causing a significant impact on animal or public health resulting from:

1. a change of a known pathogenic agent or its spread to a new geographic area or species; or
2. a previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time.”

OIE Members are required to notify the OIE of the detection of an emerging disease as set out in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*:

CHAPTER 1.1.

Article 1.1.4.

Veterinary Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the Headquarters:

1. a notification through WAHIS or by fax or email, when an emerging disease has been detected in a country, a zone or a compartment;
2. periodic reports subsequent to a notification of an emerging disease:
 - a. for the time necessary to have reasonable certainty that:
 - i. the disease, infection or infestation has been eradicated; or
 - ii. the situation has become stable;

OR

- b. until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the OIE list as described in Chapter 1.2.;
3. a final report once point 2 *a)* or *b)* above is complied with.

Based on WAHIAD notification procedure, a disease event that should be notified to the OIE is defined as follow:

“An event is a single or group of epidemiologically related outbreaks for a given disease, infection or infestation. The event includes all related outbreaks reported from the time of the immediate notification up to the final report. In a situation where there is no further spread, an event can be limited to a single outbreak. An event should be serotype/strain specific when appropriate.”

For notification, the OIE recommends considering each cluster of animals found to be infected as a unique event for this particular infection. Each cluster will be epidemiologically different

and may even involve different species of animals. They may point to different exposure risks that would not necessarily be able to be separated if they were reported as a group altogether, hence the recommendation these be reported as unique events.

As per Article 1.1.6 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Members are encouraged to report any other relevant information, such as experimental studies or prevalence surveys, to the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department as a summary report to information.dept@oie.int.

In the context of early warning, Members should send these reports in a timely manner. With the purpose of collecting and sharing this information at international level, unless the country specifies otherwise, these reports will be publishing in the OIE website.

Article 1.1.6.

1. Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases*, *infections* and *infestations* and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to provide the OIE with other important animal health information.
2. The *Headquarters* shall communicate by email or through the interface of WAHIS to *Veterinary Authorities* all *notifications* received as provided in Articles [1.1.2.](#) to [1.1.5.](#) and other relevant information.

As well as the current required information essential for an immediate notification, Members should consider sharing other important animal health information in the notification's free text fields. The list below highlights important additional information to be shared.

Current free text fields where additional information can be collected through Immediate Notifications (IN)

- *Zoonotic potential (free text)*
 - Countries should report any elements that may favour zoonotic transmission, and whether the transmission is suspected to be from animal to human or from human to animal. Onset of disease signs in humans should also be shared in this section.
 - For events affecting multiple species, countries should report any elements that may favour inter-species transmission. Disease signs and their onset should be reported for each species and individual, as appropriate.
- *Description of the affected population by outbreak (free text)*
 - Here it could be useful to add information like
 - Description of clinical symptoms and evolution,
 - Samples collected
 - Test used, number of samples tested, number positive
 - Repeated sampling of positive animals and results
 - Known contact with COVID-19 human patient(s) and/or animals infected with SARS-CoV-2
 - Site description: stray/free-range, household, backyard, farm, market, etc.
 - If free-ranging wildlife, describe environmental conditions for those animals

- *Source of the outbreak or origin of infection (possibility to add free text)*

- Suspected source of the outbreak or origin of infection
- Risk factors identified (known or suspected)

- *Epidemiological comments about the event (free text)*

This section was created to provide any other relevant information in relation with additional epidemiological details or control measures or any other useful information in relation with the event. This section differs from the section entitled “Description of the affected population” (which is specific for each outbreak) because it aims to provide a general idea about the whole event in a national/international context. It is important to note that many times this section is not completed by countries. Therefore, it would be important to guide countries in some details that they should provide for emerging diseases, such as:

General country information policy vs the disease

- Obligation of reporting the disease in the country/territory
- Approach of the country in notification / testing. Which are the criteria used by the country to perform tests on animals? Reasons why or the context in which animals were tested?
- Control and prevention measures: approach to positive animals / preventive and control measures applied by the country.
- Risk communication established in the country.

Animal population survey

- Ongoing animal population surveys in the country
- Data collection methods

Sampling information

- Sampling strategy
- Number of samples collected

Testing information

- Details on testing (protocol, primers)
- Number of animals tested in the country
- Have full genome sequences been uploaded in public domain? If so, where?