



Brazil changes alert level for Coronavirus

At a press conference on the morning of last Tuesday, January 28, the Health Minister, Luiz Henrique Mandetta, confirmed the **alert levels** for the Coronavirus would change to **"imminent danger"**.

According to the minister, the terms are defined under the World Health Organization Protocol, which classifies contamination risks in three levels:



Level 1 – Alert

Level 2 – Imminent danger

Level 3 – Public health emergency

Until recently, there were no suspected cases of contamination by the virus in Brazil and, therefore, the country was classified as Level 1. With the expansion of China's alert extended to the whole country and the confirmation of suspicious cases in Brazil, the alert was increased to "imminent danger" (Level 2). Imminent danger can be interpreted as a level where the risk that the virus will begin circulating in the country is present, but still within the scope of suspicion.

Mandetta declares there's no reason to panic, but that caution and vigilance are still needed:

“This is a time to be aware. Brazil has a team of trained professionals who have been through many epidemics and viruses”



According to him, many different laboratories throughout the country are working on identifying virus behavior and possible treatments.

As a preventive measure, actions at ports and airports are being intensified. All travelers receive information about preventive measures and how to proceed in case of suspicion of the disease, mainly in aircraft coming from Asia.

It is recommended that trips to China be made only in cases of extreme need. This is because the whole of China has been classified as a risk area, and not just Wuhan, the city where the virus started to spread.

Regarding Carnival, the minister states that a large part of the tourists who come to Brazil for the celebrations are not from Asia, but that ports and airports are being reinforced with security measures anyway.

Learn more about the Coronavirus

What is Coronavirus?

It is a large viral family, known to scientists since the mid-1960s, capable of creating respiratory infections in humans and animals. Generally, its symptoms are light, similar to a common cold's. Some Coronaviruses, however, can cause serious illness and have a major impact on the public health due to their contagious nature. Among the most worrisome illnesses are the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).



What is SARS capable of causing?

The first reports of SARS were recorded in 2002, also in China. At the time, SARS spread rapidly to more than 12 countries in North America, South America, Europe and Asia, infecting around 8,000 people and leading to approximately 800 deaths, until the global epidemic was brought under control in 2003. Subsequently, similar cases were reported in the Middle East, hence the onset of the MERS. The Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012, but it turned out that previous cases had already happened in Jordan in the same year. Like SARS, MERS affects the respiratory system.

What are the symptoms in case of contamination by Coronavirus?

Generally, they are light and don't last long. Some of them are coughing, a runny nose, sore throat and fever. When the illness gets worse, there can be a development of pneumonia or SARS.

What are the preventive measures?

- Avoid being in close contact with people who have symptoms of a respiratory infection;
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after having had contact with people who are already ill;
- Avoid proximity with wild animals and sickly animals, on farms, hatcheries or elsewhere;
- Keep your distance and cover your mouth or nose with disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing and wash your hands right after.