

Supplementary Appendix

This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Supplement to: Rothe C, Schunk M, Sothmann P, et al. Transmission of 2019-nCoV infection from an asymptomatic contact in Germany. *N Engl J Med* 2020;382:970-1. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2001468

Supplementary Material

To clarify whether the index patient has been correctly described as asymptomatic, a group of the authors spoke with her by telephone on 5 February 2020.

What follows is her description of the way her symptoms developed.

Sunday, 19 January 2020

1:35 a.m. local time – Take-off from Shanghai.

6:30 a.m. local time – Arrival in Munich on a direct flight.

She noticed that a person was coughing in the rows behind her own row.

Monday, 20 January 2020

First meeting day, Webex conference in the morning, various other business meetings in the afternoon. No symptoms whatsoever during the workday.

At midnight she woke up, felt “a little bit warm, but not in a febrile way,” took one pill of a Chinese over-the-counter drug called 999 (solution in water), which according to her contained acetaminophen.

She took it as a “preventive measure to be fit for the following day,” when various intense business meetings and workshops were scheduled.

This was the only time during her stay in Germany that she reported taking any kind of medication.

Tuesday, 21 January 2020

Felt tired after 3:00 p.m. She ascribed this to the time difference, as this was her bedtime at home in China (10:00 p.m.). She noticed some minor pain “in some muscles and the bones of her chest” when she touched certain trigger points. She did not feel “warm” again, nor did she have any other symptoms.

Wednesday, 22 January 2020

All day meetings until 6:00 p.m.

She mentioned that she had felt slightly cold in the morning when wearing light business attire.

This ended when she used a shawl. Flight out of Munich at 10:20 p.m.

Thursday, 23 January 2020

Arrival at 4:00 p.m. local time in Shanghai. Felt tired upon arrival, but otherwise healthy.

On the evening of the same day, she reported feeling sick. (“This is the first moment I recognized getting sick.”) She recorded the temperature at around midnight (approx. 38°C); there were some localized chest pains as well.

Friday, 24 January 2020

Went to get medicine in the hospital for her sick father and was busy all day. Recorded a temperature of 38.7°C in the evening.

Saturday, 25 January 2020

Went to see a doctor and was hospitalized.

Sunday, 26 January 2020

Developed an infrequent dry cough.

Monday, 27 January 2020

Transferred to a different hospital.

Tuesday, 28 January 2020

Cough turned productive; it lasted for 3 further days and then subsided.

Wednesday, 5 February 2020

Interview. She was still hospitalized.