



EAZA Statement on the Coronavirus COVID-19

Amsterdam, 3 March 2020: The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) is monitoring the situation regarding the COVID-19 virus that has been in the news for the last few weeks, especially in connection to our planning of the Animal Welfare Forum, Directors' Days and the Conservation Forum (March, April and May respectively), and in line with the guidance of the relevant health ministries. (Guidance from the Dutch ministry of health can be found here: <https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus/questions-and-answers-novel-coronavirus>)

We recommend that everyone reads and follows the advice by World Health Organisation (WHO): <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

In summary, it is important to follow the standard measures that apply to all viruses that can cause flu and colds:

- Wash your hands with soap regularly
- Cough and sneeze on the inside of your elbow
- Use paper handkerchiefs

As things stand, unless a quarantine is declared in the host city, there should be no reason for us to cancel any of these events. The risk associated with COVID-19 infection for people in the EU/EEA and UK is currently considered to be low to moderate. Mortality rates for COVID-19 are estimated at 2% with most serious and life-threatening cases among vulnerable groups – this means that practically speaking, unless delegates belong to those groups there should be no reason to be seriously worried. Should any of our host cities decide that a quarantine is necessary, we will necessarily need to cancel the relevant events; if this should happen, we will contact all registered delegates directly and publish the news of the decision to cancel on the news page of our website.

If you are travelling from an area with significant local exposure to the virus, and where no quarantine has yet been declared, please consider carefully your decision to join the event and abide by the travel bans put in place.

Again, for the moment there does not seem any reason to be concerned that any of these events will be cancelled. Assuming that the virus will not cause quarantines in our host cities, we look forward to seeing you at one of our events in the next few months.