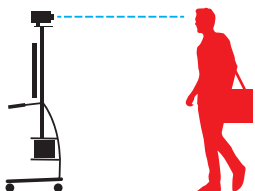


From detection to treatment

The National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) will be the epicentre for treating any Wuhan virus patient, and making sure the disease does not spread. Salma Khalik looks at the process:

1 Early detection
Suspect case is identified – at airport, GP clinics or polyclinics.



2 Transfer
Special ambulance is called to take patient, if adult, to Tan Tock Seng Hospital Emergency Department. Those 16 years and under will be taken to KK Women's and Children's Hospital.



3 Treatment
If patient needs to be warded, he is taken straight to a negative pressure isolation room at NCID.



THE NEGATIVE PRESSURE ISOLATION ROOM

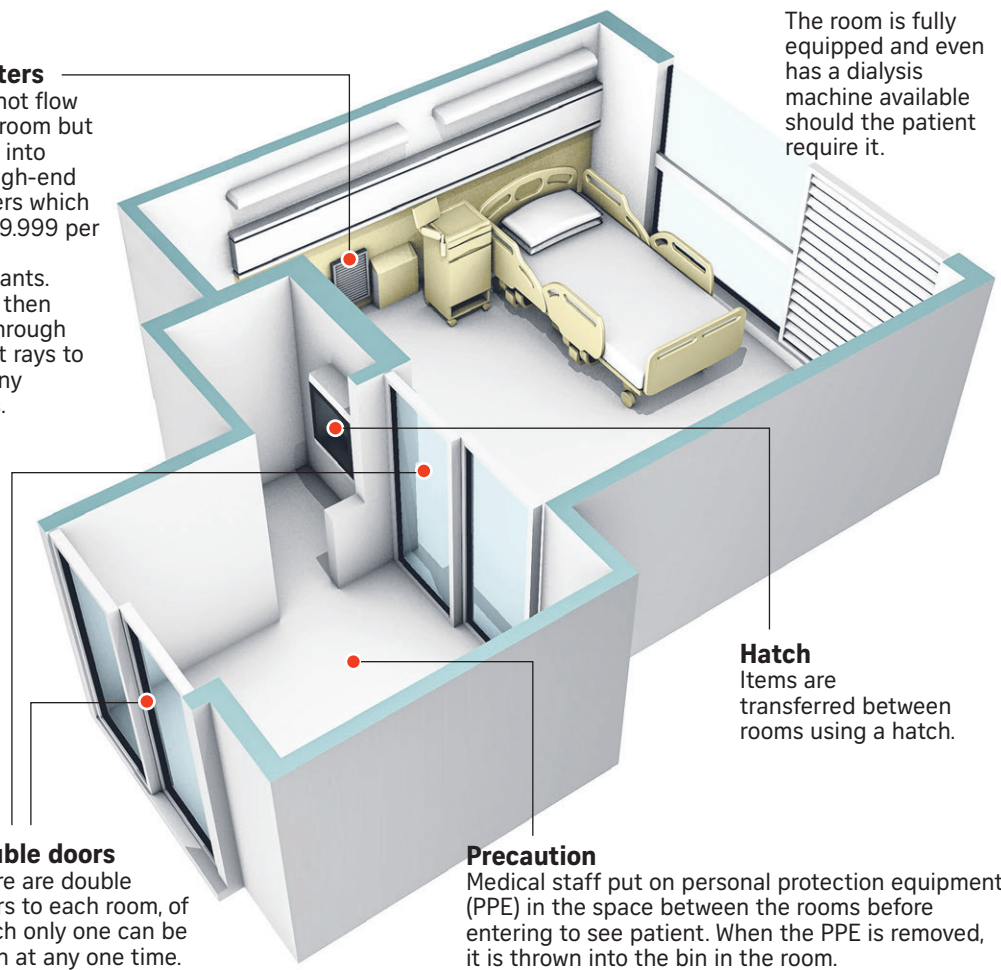
The NCID has 124 negative pressure isolation rooms.



A swab is taken from the patient and sent to the National Public Health Laboratory, where it is analysed. Staff there put on personal protective equipment, including powered air-purifying respirators that protect them from any virus.



Hepa filters
Air does not flow out from room but is sucked into special high-end Hepa filters which remove 99.999 per cent of contaminants. The air is then passed through ultraviolet rays to remove any remnants.



The room is fully equipped and even has a dialysis machine available should the patient require it.

Double doors
There are double doors to each room, of which only one can be open at any one time.

Precaution
Medical staff put on personal protection equipment (PPE) in the space between the rooms before entering to see patient. When the PPE is removed, it is thrown into the bin in the room.

Hatch
Items are transferred between rooms using a hatch.