A microscopic image showing several spherical coronaviruses with characteristic surface spikes, rendered in shades of blue against a dark background. The viruses are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background.

2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV)  
Situation Report  
30 January 2019

## Summary

On 31 December 2019, the WHO was informed of a number of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. This outbreak of viral pneumonia, now called **2019-nCoV** (Novel Coronavirus), was identified as a new strain of coronavirus in the same family as SARS and MERS. There are currently no vaccines or cure available and testing for patients for 2019-nCoV is limited, with no tests commercially available at present.



Medical staff screening patients in Wuhan, China. (Photo: ABC 15)

Since its detection in Wuhan in December 2019, the virus has now spread outside of the province and into several major cities in China and to at least 19 other countries. As of 30 January 2020 (1130 UCT), 7,919 laboratory-confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection (including healthcare workers) have been reported globally. Cases reported in other countries have in their majority been linked to travel to China.

To date, confirmed infections have been reported in:

Region	Country	Confirmed Cases
ASIA & PACIFIC	China (including Hong Kong & Macau)	7,821
	Taiwan	9
	Japan	11
	South Korea	6
	Vietnam	5
	Singapore	10
	Malaysia	8
	Cambodia	1
	Thailand	14
	Philippines	1
	Nepal	1
	Sri Lanka	1
	India	1
	Australia	8
	AMERICAS	US
Canada		3
EUROPE	France	5
	Germany	4
	Finland	1
MIDDLE EAST	UAE	4

A total of 170 deaths have been reported as of 30 January, all of them in China; 162 were from Hubei province, two from Henan province, one from Beijing, one from Shanghai, one from Hainan province, one from Heilongjiang

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province, one from Hebei province, and one from Sichuan province.

The illness may vary in severity (mild, moderate to severe) and symptoms may include fever, coughing and shortness of breath. According to the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the symptoms may appear between 2 and 14 days after exposure. Moreover, Human-to-Human transmission has also been confirmed for the virus, with at least three such cases reported outside of China; in Germany, Japan, and Vietnam respectively.

### Measures

On 22 January, Chinese authorities placed the city of Wuhan and its 11 million residents under quarantine, cutting off all public transport into and out of the city. The timeframe of the quarantine was not stated, with authorities saying that the recovery time would be announced separately, at a later date. Travel bans have also been imposed for the cities of Huanggang, and Ezhou, while the municipal government of Shanghai issued a notice on 27 January ordering companies not to resume work until 3 February. Major cities such as Beijing have not imposed any serious transportation restrictions. However, the situation may change with short notice as the number of cases rise.

Chinese authorities have advised against travel to Wuhan and have stepped up screening at airports, railway stations, and on highways in an effort to stem the spread of the disease. Major Chinese cities like Beijing and Shanghai have suspended long-distance domestic bus services. Additionally, Premier Li Keqiang issued instructions urging local governments to identify, report, isolate, and treat patients in a timely manner, and to promptly and objectively release information about disease prevention and control. The use of face masks in public has also been made mandatory across the country.

With the large influx of patients of patients with respiratory symptoms, several cities in China are struggling to keep up with the demand for health care. There have been reports on shortages of materials, equipment and staffing. The Chinese authorities have deployed military clinicians to impacted area for support and additional hospital infrastructure are also being built to cater specifically to patients impacted by the illness. It is thus important that expatriates or travelers to factor in the potential lack of health care resources in the country for any other health care concerns. Any medical evacuation from China could be delayed as patients may need to test negative for 2019-nCoV prior to being evacuated out of the country.

In Hong Kong, in addition to airport screenings, on 25 January the city enacted a citywide emergency, suspending activities at schools until 17 February, and announcing that it will stop issuing individual travel permits for travellers from mainland China, as well as suspending half of its flights to and from China, cancelling train and ferry services between Hong Kong and the mainland, and calling off planned festivities for Chinese New Year. South Korea has also temporarily suspended school activities. North Korea and Mongolia have closed their borders to Chinese travellers in response to the virus, while Russia has closed all its border with China.

Outbound flights from China are subject to additional inspection in the form of health screenings and temperature checks, as well as quarantine of suspected cases. On 27 January, the US Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) issued updated travel guidance for China, recommending that travellers avoid all nonessential travel to all of the country (Level 3 Travel Health Notice). Additionally, the CDC is monitoring for illness among travellers arriving into the US from Wuhan at 20 US airports, which are equipped with quarantine stations. Educational materials also being provided for any travellers arriving from any location in China. Disney, McDonald's, Starbucks

and other US companies with significant footprints in China are suspending operations and instituting travel restrictions as they respond to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

The UK, New Zealand, Canada and a number of other countries have also advised their citizens against all travel to Hubei Province and all but essential travel to China as a whole. Screenings of incoming passengers from China are also taking place in other airports around the world, including the UK, Australia, India, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, and Thailand.

Additionally, a number of governments have ordered the evacuation of citizens from Wuhan. Japan and the US started evacuating since 28 January, while the EU has confirmed their citizens will be evacuated by the end of the week. Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Thailand are asking China to allow flying their nationals out of the country, while several other countries including Australia, the UK, Germany, Portugal and India are also considering evacuation options. Evacuated citizens will be held in quarantine upon arrival for different periods of time, depending on their country's policy.

A number of airlines have also suspended or significantly limited operations to and from mainland China, including American Airlines, United Airlines, Delta, British Airways, Air Canada, Lufthansa, Air India, Seoul Air, Finnair, Cathay Pacific, Jetstar, Air Asia and Lion.

## Prevention & Recommendations

Basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

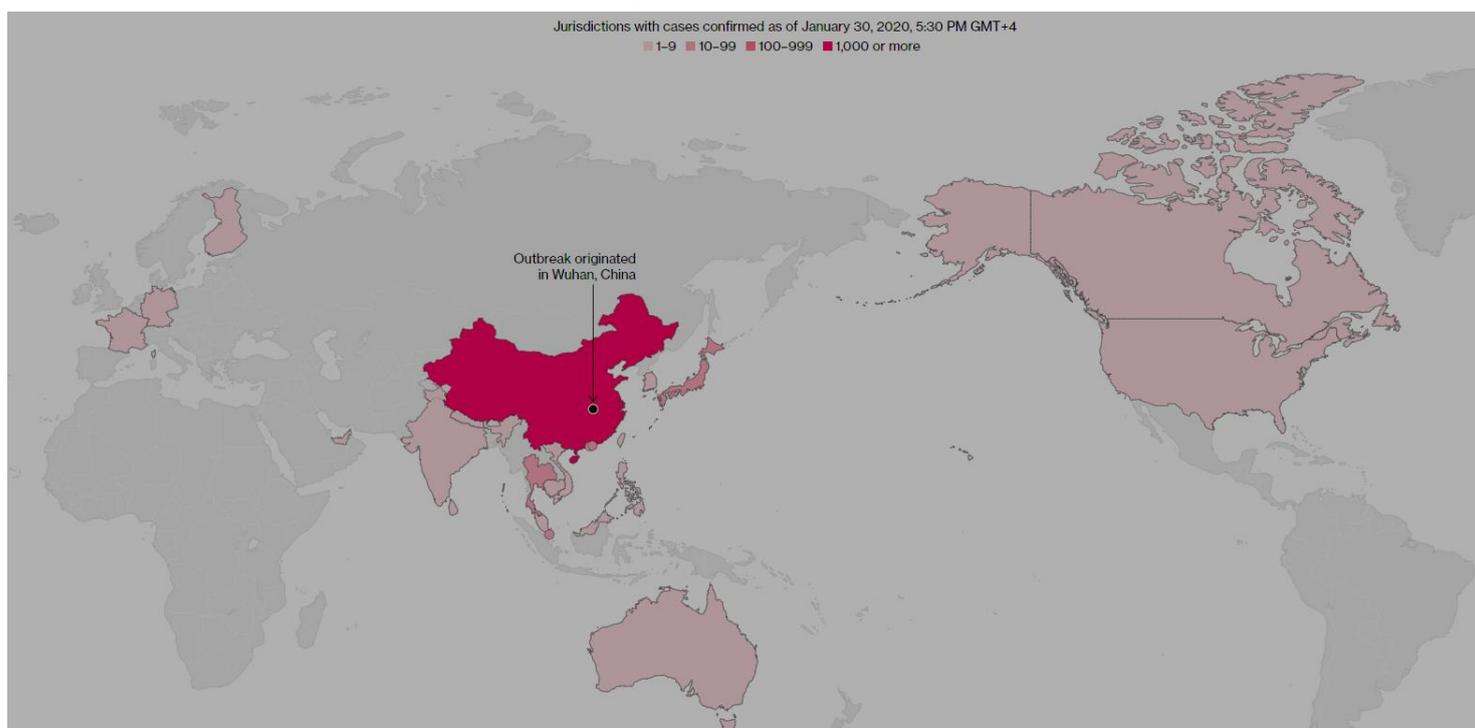
- ◆ Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections;
- ◆ Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available;
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands;
- ◆ Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals;
- ◆ People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, dispose of used tissue immediately, and wash hands);
- ◆ If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider;
- ◆ The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with extra care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods.
- ◆ Not travel while sick and endeavour to stay home;
- ◆ While the Chinese authorities have required people to wear face masks in public, their efficacy has not been demonstrated as they will not necessarily prevent infection; however, they may help limit the spread.

If you were in China in the last 14 days and experiencing fever or respiratory symptoms, you should:

- ◆ Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- ◆ Avoid contact with others.



**Figure 1. Regional distribution of 2019-nCoV cases in Asia as of 30 January 2020 (ECDC)**



**Figure 2. Global distribution of 2019-nCoV cases as of 30 January 2020 (Bloomberg)**

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