SITUATION OVERVIEW

The outbreak of the SARS-like coronavirus that was first discovered in Wuhan, China, in December continues to escalate, now with 11,821 confirmed cases and 259 deaths as of 0930hrs on Saturday, 1 February China local time (see table below).

Travel Advisory

US government agencies have heightened their China travel advisories.

- The US State Department has added recommendations to its previously announced Level 4, Do Not Travel, for all of China.¹ It advises that those currently in China should consider departing using commercial means, and it has ordered the departure of all family members of U.S. personnel in China under age 21.
- The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) has issued a Level 3 advisory: “Warning”, avoid all non-essential travel to China.²
- The US additionally announced on 31 January that it would bar entry to foreign nationals who have traveled to China within the last 14 days.

US travel recommendations are, generally speaking, stricter than those of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other countries.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday, 30 January declared a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). There is a specific concern that the virus could spread to countries with weak healthcare systems. WHO does not recommend limiting trade and movement based on the information available. Declaring a PHEIC may galvanize and guide the global response to the disease. The WHO risk assessment in Situation Report 10 published 30 January:

- China: Very High
- Regionally: High
- Globally: High

¹ https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/China.html
Virus Factsheet

Key aspects of the Wuhan coronavirus, or “2019nCov,” are still relatively poorly understood. The following information is derived from Situation Reports 7, 8 and 10, released by the WHO on 27, 28 and 30 January unless otherwise noted:

- **Incubation Period:** Estimated 2-10 days. The range will be refined with more data.
  - China’s national health agency indicates 1-14 days
- **Severity:** Most patients display relative mild symptoms, with about 20% progressing to severe disease, including pneumonia and respiratory failure. A non-WHO risk assessment report based on an analysis of 2,744 infections recorded up to 26 January estimated that the mortality rate would be less than 3%, however these preliminary estimations should be treated with caution. The mortality rate of seasonal flu is below 0.1%.
- **Transmissibility:** While the virus is human transmissible, the WHO does not indicate the degree of transmissibility. The degree to which a disease is contagious is expressed as “$R_0$” (R naught), which indicates how many additional infections will result from each infection. For example, in a disease with a value $R_1$ each infection would be expected to cause one additional infection, and thereby remain stable. The $R_0$ of the 2019nCoV is the subject of ongoing inquiry and many research groups have published preliminary estimations in the past several days, many of which are between $R_2$ – $R_{2.5}$. Again, these estimations should be treated with caution. Human-to-human transmission has been confirmed in Thailand, Vietnam, Germany and other countries outside China, but is believed to be limited.
  - The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has said that the main route of transmission is respiratory droplet and close physical contact. It is also likely that the disease is transmissible via contact with contaminated surfaces, where the virus may survive for some time.
- **Infectious Period:** The infectious period of the disease is currently unknown. On 26 January, the head of China's National Health Commission said that the disease is contagious during its incubation period, before it becomes symptomatic. However, according to WHO Situation Report 7, it is unclear if the disease is transmissible during incubation, or by asymptomatic individuals.
- **Prevention:** If traveling to China, you are advised to:
  - Avoid contact with sick people
  - Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
  - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

**Those who have become ill during a 14-day period following travel to China 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
  - Do not travel while sick
  - Cover your mouth and nose while sneezing with a sleeve or tissue, not with the hands
  - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **Treatment:** Currently the only available treatment for the disease is standard supportive care. Scientists are

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3https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports
working quickly to develop a vaccine, but this is an inherently slow process and there is no timeline for introduction. The Hubei Daily reported that three drugs Remdesivir, Chloroquine and Ritonavir are being studied for use against the virus. Other sources have indicated similar treatment investigations.

- **Scrutiny of Infection Numbers and Data:** There has been some skepticism of the infection numbers reported in China. In particular, there are indications that disease incidence in Wuhan and Hubei may be higher than official numbers. According to on-the-ground Reporting by Reuters, bureaucratic problems, technical challenges and the overwhelming of local medical infrastructure appear to have negatively impacted incidence reporting. However, problems aside, the Chinese government appears to be taking transparency, accuracy and international cooperation very seriously.

**Chinese Government Measures**

Preventative measures taken by the Chinese government continue to escalate.

- **Transportation Restrictions:** At least 16 cities in Hubei province have adopted quarantine measures of some kind, including shutting down airports and railways, banning large-capacity passenger vehicles and later most private vehicles, and controlling entry by road.
  
  - Passenger buses have been restricted from moving in and out of Beijing and Tianjin. In Shanghai, the last four stops on the northern end of subway line 11, which lie in neighboring Jiangsu Province, have been closed.

- **Work/School/Event Cancellations:** The central government announced that the Lunar New Year holiday had been extended to Sunday 2 February, with work resuming the following Monday, 3 February.
  
  - A leading group created to handle the crisis led by Premier Li Keqiang has recommended that offices in cities significantly impacted by the infection allow employees to work from home after the extended Lunar New Year holiday ends.
  
  - The municipality of Shanghai has extended the holiday to Sunday 9 February, with work resuming on Monday 10 February. Some companies are arranging for employees to work from home during those days. The Shanghai government has also pushed back the opening of the next school semester, which was originally set for 17 February; a new date has yet to be set.
  
  - Shandong province has asked companies not to resume working before 10 February.
  
  - The Tianjin municipal government has ordered all schools and non-essential companies to remain closed until further notice.
  
  - Some office buildings are locking down, and have sent out notifications to workers who may wish to pick up items before the properties are shut. These decisions appear to be made by property managers.

- **Medical Services:** The Chinese government is constructing emergency hospital facilities in Wuhan. Hospitals in at least some cities, including Shanghai, Beijing and Tianjin, have designated special treatment facilities for those diagnosed with the virus.
  
  - The Shanghai government announced that beginning 2 February residents wishing to purchase masks will have to register with their ID at designated locations. Households will be limited to five masks daily.

- **Social and Political Issues:**
  
  - There have been reports of negative social incidents, including discrimination against people from...
Wuhan/Hubei. However, it is not clear how widespread these issues are.

- The government and society is putting pressure on officials from Wuhan/Hubei, who are perceived to have mishandled the crisis. The government has disciplined one official in Tianjin.
- The overall information environment remains transparent. However, some media controls have been tightened. The revelation that the Wuhan police suppressed some early information about the threat of the virus has created controversy. However, the ultimate political and institutional impact of the virus is uncertain.
- China will release winter and spring vegetable reserves in major northern cities to ease supply shortages amid the new coronavirus outbreak.

**Global and Selected Foreign Country/Special Territory Measures**

Airports across the world have introduced enhanced screening measures to prevent the further international spread of the disease. The US and Singapore have barred entry of foreign nationals who have traveled to China within the last 14 days; it is possible that other countries will follow suit. At least 19 airlines around the world have suspended flights to China; list compiled by Reuters available [here](https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3047907/china-coronavirus-hong-kong-government-deny-entry). H&A is tracking measures adopted by selected number of Asian countries and special territories:

- **Hong Kong**
  - Temporary ban on travelers arriving from Wuhan and Hubei. Hong Kong had rejected some 800 travelers as of the afternoon of 29 January.
  - Reduced cross-border travel, with the following measures implemented: six of 14 border crossings have been temporary closed, including Man Kam To and Sha Tau Kok; trains between Hung Hom and Guangzhou, as well as the high-speed service to the mainland are suspended; flights to the mainland have been halved; cross-border bus service reduced; ferry traffic has been reduced. Beijing additionally said it would suspend the issuance of new individual travel permits to Hong Kong.\(^5\)
  - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.
  - All government employees except those providing essential and emergency services have been asked to work from home, and the private sector has been encouraged to do the same.
  - Some universities have suspended classes until March.
  - Some hotels in Hong Kong have said that they are enhancing sanitation and disinfection practices. Some banks have closed branches or shortened service.
  - **Note on Hong Kong social unrest:** the escalation of the health emergency is having a complex impact on political tensions in the city. Regular protests have seen a further decrease in attendance. However, medical workers in the Hospital Authority Employees Alliance are considering a strike next week if the government does not seal the border with the mainland. Some 6,700 members of the union have already expressed willingness the strike, with all 13,000 members to vote on the matter on Saturday evening, 1 February. Additionally, there were three separate bombing incidents 27-28 January, with an anonymous message posted on Telegram demanding the border be closed and threatening more bombs. The level of risk posed by radical actors in Hong Kong remains uncertain.

- **Macau**
  - Temporary ban on travelers arriving from Wuhan and Hubei.
- **Singapore**
  - Effective 1 February, Singapore has barred entry of Chinese nationals and foreigners who have traveled in China within the past 14 days. The ban will also apply to transiting passengers but will exempt residents and long-term pass holders such as those on work permits, student visas or long-term visit passes. The ban does not apply to passport holders and travelers to Hong Kong.
  - **Thailand**
    - The Thai Public Health Ministry has heightened its public health emergency operation to level three, the highest level.
    - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.
    - Travellers staying in the country whose plans have been disrupted by the disease outbreak will not be issued fines for overstaying visas.
    - Shopping malls and other stores are providing hand sanitizer and facemasks to employees and customers; surfaces are being sanitized every 30 minutes. Some malls and businesses are using thermal scanners at entrances.
  - **Malaysia**
    - Temporary ban on travelers arriving from Wuhan and Hubei.
    - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.
  - **Indonesia**
    - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.
  - **Singapore**
    - Temporary ban on travelers arriving from Wuhan and Hubei.
    - Quarantine measures for Singapore residents and long-term passport holders who have traveled in Hubei during the last 14 days, and Chinese nationals who hold passports issued in Hubei.
    - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.
  - **Vietnam**
    - Temporary ban on issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals.
    - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.
  - **Russia**
    - Temporary closure of its border with China.
    - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.
  - **India**
    - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.

**Evacuations:** Many nations have confirmed at least limited evacuations of their citizens living in Wuhan. The US State Department advises that those currently in China should consider departing using commercial means, and it has ordered departure of all family members under age 21 of U.S. personnel in China. A list compiled by Reuters on 31 January of evacuations by country is available [here](https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1844939/govt-in-full-control-of-outbreak).

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Security Response Benchmarking

Multinational firms have begun adopting various policies in response to the outbreak, including the following:

- Restricting all non-essential travel to China
- Allowing flexible working arrangements including working from home, cancelling outbound travel for Chinese employees that wish to remain with their families
- For employees returning from China, mandatory working from home for a set period, for example 14 days, to mitigate the risk of passing infection to offices abroad. Four people in Germany are reported to have been infected by a visiting Chinese co-worker.
- Mandating that employees presenting flu-like symptoms obtain a diagnosis before returning to work
- Google has temporarily shut down all China offices; Walt Disney has closed its resorts in Hong Kong and Shanghai. A list compiled by Reuters on 21 January that includes various corporate closures is available here.

Infections/deaths by Territory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province or Territory</th>
<th>Infected/Deaths</th>
<th>Province or Territory</th>
<th>Infected/Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wuhan/Hubei Province</td>
<td>7,153 confirmed; 249 dead</td>
<td>Yunan</td>
<td>83 confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henan</td>
<td>422 confirmed; 2 dead</td>
<td>Heilongjiang</td>
<td>80 confirmed; 2 dead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guangdong</td>
<td>520 confirmed</td>
<td>Tianjin</td>
<td>32 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zhejiang</td>
<td>599 confirmed</td>
<td>Shanxi</td>
<td>47 confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chongqing</td>
<td>238 confirmed</td>
<td>Hebei</td>
<td>96 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunan</td>
<td>332 confirmed</td>
<td>Inner Mongolia</td>
<td>20 confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>139 confirmed; 1 death</td>
<td>Gansu</td>
<td>35 confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anhui</td>
<td>297 confirmed</td>
<td>Guizhou</td>
<td>29 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>153 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
<td>Ningxia</td>
<td>21 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jiangxi</td>
<td>286 confirmed</td>
<td>Jilin</td>
<td>14 confirmed</td>
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<td>Guangxi</td>
<td>100 confirmed</td>
<td>Guilin</td>
<td>9 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Infected/Deaths</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Infected/Deaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shandong</td>
<td>184 confirmed</td>
<td>Xinjiang</td>
<td>17 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sichuan</td>
<td>207 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
<td>Qinghai</td>
<td>8 confirmed</td>
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<td>Fujian</td>
<td>120 confirmed</td>
<td>Tibet</td>
<td>1 confirmed</td>
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<td>Jiangsu</td>
<td>202 confirmed</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>13 confirmed</td>
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<td>Hainan</td>
<td>53 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
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<td>7 confirmed</td>
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<td>Liaoning</td>
<td>60 confirmed</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>10 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaanxi</td>
<td>87 confirmed</td>
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Wuhan Coronavirus Outbreak Infection International Numbers
Total Countries with Confirmed Infections: 24, including China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Infected/Deaths</th>
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<th>Infected/Deaths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>19 confirmed</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>7 confirmed</td>
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<td>US</td>
<td>6 confirmed</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>1 confirmed</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>13 confirmed</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>9 confirmed</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2 confirmed</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>8 confirmed</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>6 confirmed</td>
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<td>South Korea</td>
<td>11 confirmed</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>5 confirmed</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3 confirmed</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1 confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>1 confirmed</td>
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