SITUATION OVERVIEW

The outbreak of the SARS-like coronavirus that was first discovered in Wuhan, China, in December continues to escalate, now with 9,720 confirmed cases and 213 deaths as of 0930hrs on Friday 31 January, China local time (see table below).

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday, 30 January declared a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters that “the main reason for the declaration is not because of what is happening in China but because of what is happening in other countries.” There is 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

Travel Advisory
US government agencies have heighted their China travel advisories.
- The US State Department on 30 January local Washington DC time escalated its travel advisory to Level 4, Do Not Travel, for all of China.1 Previously the Level 4 advisory was only issued for Wuhan and Hubei Province, with a Level 3 advisory for other parts of China.
- 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 agencies of numerous other countries have issued similar travel advisories.

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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 analysis of 2,744 infections recorded up to 26 January estimated 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 “R₀” (R naught), which indicates how many additional infections will result from each infection. For example, in a disease with a value R₀ each infection would be expected to cause one additional infection, and thereby remain stable. The R₀ 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 around R₂ – R₃. These estimations should be treated with caution. WHO said that human-to-human transmission outside of China has been limited.
  - The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has said that the main route of transmission was 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 working quickly to develop a vaccine, but this is an inherently slow process and there is no timeline for

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3https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports
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.

- **Scrubtyn 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 will be extended to Sunday 2 February, with work resuming the following Monday 3 February.
  - A leading group created to handle the crisis led by Premiere 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.

- **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.

- **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, there are indications that some media controls have been tightened.
  - China will release winter and spring vegetable reserves in major northern cities to ease supply shortages amid the new coronavirus outbreak.

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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. At least 19 airlines around the world have suspended flights to China: list compiled by Reuters available here. Pilots and attendants at some airlines are pressuring their companies to halt flights or take special precautions. 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 appears to have accelerated the already declining turnout of regular protests. However, medical workers are threatening to strike next week if the government does not seal the border with the mainland. 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.
  - All schools closed until further notice.
  - Enhanced screening measures at ports of entry.

- **Thailand**
  - The Thai Public Health Ministry has heightened its public health emergency operation to level three, the highest level.\(^6\)
  - 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 over-staying visas.\(^7\)
  - 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.

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- **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 has authorized the departure of family members and non-emergency personnel from the Beijing embassy and consulates in Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Shenyang.

**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. It is unclear if other companies have taken such steps

<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>5,806 confirmed; 204 dead</td>
<td>Yunan</td>
<td>76 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henan</td>
<td>352 confirmed; 2 dead</td>
<td>Heilongjiang</td>
<td>59 confirmed; 2 dead</td>
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<td>Guangdong</td>
<td>393 confirmed</td>
<td>Tianjin</td>
<td>31 confirmed</td>
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<td>Zhejiang</td>
<td>537 confirmed</td>
<td>Shanxi</td>
<td>39 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chongqing</td>
<td>206 confirmed</td>
<td>Hebei</td>
<td>82 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunan</td>
<td>277 confirmed</td>
<td>Inner Mongolia</td>
<td>19 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>121 confirmed; 1 death</td>
<td>Gansu</td>
<td>29 confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anhui</td>
<td>237 confirmed</td>
<td>Guizhou</td>
<td>15 confirmed</td>
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<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>128 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
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<td>17 confirmed</td>
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<td>Jiangxi</td>
<td>240 confirmed</td>
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<td>14 confirmed</td>
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<td>9 confirmed</td>
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<td>178 confirmed</td>
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<td>177 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
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<td>Fujian</td>
<td>101 confirmed</td>
<td>Tibet</td>
<td>1 confirmed</td>
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<td>Jiangsu</td>
<td>168 confirmed</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
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<td>49 confirmed; 1 dead</td>
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<td>Liaoning</td>
<td>45 confirmed</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>9 confirmed</td>
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<td>Shaanxi</td>
<td>56 confirmed</td>
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</table>
### Wuhan Coronavirus Outbreak Infection International Numbers
**Total Countries with Confirmed Infections: 19, including China**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Infected/Deaths</th>
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<th>Infected/Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>14 confirmed</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>US</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2 confirmed</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1 confirmed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Contact Us

For any enquiries, comments or feedback, please contact:

Thomas Nunlist
Analyst, China and North Asia
thomas.nunlist@hill-assoc.com

Or Ian Betts
Risk Intelligence Service Line Leader
ian.betts@hill-assoc.com

Hill & Associates’ Global Emergency Call Centre: +62 21 522 7711