

Intended for healthcare professionals

Coronavirus



The novel coronavirus, known as 2019-nCoV, began circulating in China in December 2019. The situation is evolving rapidly. The number of confirmed cases and deaths from this pneumonia-like condition are rising. This page is where all BMJ coverage of the Coronavirus outbreak can be found. All articles and resources are freely available.

Latest coverage

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Worldwide political commitment to pandemic preparedness is essential
- [Essay—Coronavirus shows how UK must act quickly before being shut out of Europe's health protection systems](#)
The threat posed by 2019-nCoV and the fragmentation of existing health protection systems caused by Brexit call for urgent assessment of cross Europe cooperation
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WHO has declared 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern
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Clinical review

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Infographic

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News

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Hundreds of British citizens will fly back from Wuhan
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Healthcare workers in Hong Kong are bracing for a potential explosion of cases locally
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China's premier visits Wuhan to inspect and direct the prevention and control efforts
- [China coronavirus: mild but infectious cases may make it hard to control outbreak, report warns](#)
Unclear whether the outbreak can be contained within China
- [China coronavirus: what do we know so far?](#)
We answer your questions about this evolving situation
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Health teams in the UK will meet each direct flight aircraft from Wuhan, China
- [China coronavirus: cases surge as official admits human to human transmission](#)
More than 200 confirmed cases of infection with the novel coronavirus have emerged in China

Opinion

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The outbreak of a serious infectious disease is not just a biomedical event. It affects people and their communities
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During disease outbreaks, community anxiety rises. Mass quarantine is likely to raise that substantially

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Analysis

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Preprints

Last June, BMJ joined Yale University and Cold Spring Harbor lab to launch medRxiv ("med-archive"), a preprint server for the rapid dissemination of research articles in clinical medicine. [medRxiv has posted a number of preprints](#) about the new coronavirus that has emerged from China. This means that anyone working on responses can have a complete article to examine.

[Read all of the preprints posted about Coronavirus.](#)

Cold Spring Harbor lab also runs bioRxiv, which has been sharing articles about basic research on the virus responsible. MedRxiv stands ready to publish further preprints relating to the virus. [Submit your pre-print here.](#)

Timeline of coronavirus outbreak

31 January - The latest figures suggest that there are nearly 10 000 confirmed cases and more than 200 deaths. The UK reported its first two confirmed cases of the virus.

30 January - The World Health Organisation declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern over the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak. It reported that the virus had spread to 18 countries, and that human to human transmission had occurred in four - Germany, Japan, Vietnam and the US. It said the declaration was "not because of what is happening in China, but because of what is happening in other countries. Our greatest concern is for the virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems that are ill prepared to deal with it."

29 January - The UK government has announced plans to fly hundreds of British citizens back from Wuhan and quarantine them for two weeks. The move comes after British Airways suspended all flights to and from mainland China until at least 31 January. Other countries, including Australia, Japan, the US have also started to repatriate citizens.

28 January - 4520 confirmed cases and 106 deaths have been reported in China (including Macau). Outside China 15 countries have reported cases. These are Thailand (14 cases), Hong Kong (eight), the US (five), Taiwan (five), Australia (five), Singapore (four), Japan (four), South Korea (four), Malaysia (four), France (three), Canada (two), Vietnam (two), Nepal (one), Cambodia (one) and Germany (one). No deaths have been reported outside China.

26 January - The WHO said 2014 cases have been confirmed worldwide, of which 1985 were reported from China, including special regions Hong Kong (five), Macau (two) and Taipei (three). Twenty nine cases have been confirmed outside of China in ten countries: Japan (three), South Korea (two), Vietnam (two), Singapore (four), Australia (four), Malaysia (three), Thailand (five), Nepal (one), US (two), France (three). Of the 1975 confirmed cases in mainland China, 324 cases have been reported as severely ill.

25 January - Updated report from the MRC centre at Imperial College London estimated that up to 18 January, the R0 was 2.6 (uncertainty range: 1.5-3.5), meaning that, on average, each case infected 2.6 other people. It said control measures need to block well over 60% of transmission to be effective in controlling the outbreak. It added that in the absence of antiviral drugs or vaccines, "control relies upon the prompt detection and isolation of symptomatic cases."

24 January - 830 cases and 26 deaths confirmed worldwide.

23 January - 14 people in the UK are tested for the virus, however all are found to be negative. Chinese authorities put Wuhan in lockdown and expanded travel restrictions to several nearby cities. The WHO also met to examine the situation but decided against announcing a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). It also estimated that the preliminary R0 (reproduction number) estimate is 1.4 to 2.5, meaning that every person infected could infect between 1.4 and 2.5 people.

22 January - The UK began sending health teams to meet each direct flight aircraft from Wuhan, China, to check for symptoms of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and to provide information in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese to all passengers about symptoms and what to do if they become ill. However, China then announced it would be shutting down transportation from Wuhan.

21 January - The first US case was reported in a man who travelled from Wuhan to Washington State. Meanwhile, a man who returned

from China to Australia with respiratory symptoms was tested, but was found not to have the virus.

20 January - Researchers at the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis at Imperial College London estimated that a total of 4000 people in Wuhan City had an onset of symptoms caused by the novel disease (uncertainty range: 1,000 – 9,700) by 18th January 2020.

20 January - Chinese authorities confirmed evidence of human to human transmission, after the virus spread to 14 health workers in China. South Korea announced its first confirmed case, in a 35 year old Chinese woman who flew from Wuhan to Incheon international airport.

16 January - Thailand announced that a 74 year old Chinese woman had been quarantined on arrival in the country and had tested positive.

15 January - Japan announced that a man in his 30s who had been to Wuhan tested positive for the virus on his return to Japan. He recovered and was discharged from hospital five days later.

13 January - Thailand reported a 61 year old woman had tested positive for the virus, despite not having visited the seafood market where the outbreak is thought to have originated.

11/12 January 2020 - China told The WHO the outbreak was associated with exposures in one seafood market in Wuhan City. Chinese authorities then identified the mystery disease as a new type of coronavirus, and shared its genetic sequence for countries to use in developing specific diagnostic kits.

31 December 2019 - The first reports of the coronavirus - known then as pneumonia with unknown cause - came from Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China.

Sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China (2019-nCoV) represents a significant and urgent threat to global health.

We call on researchers, journals and funders to ensure that research findings and data relevant to this outbreak are shared rapidly and openly to inform the public health response and help save lives.

We affirm the commitment to the principles set out in the 2016 Statement on data sharing in public health emergencies, and will seek to ensure that the World Health Organization has rapid access to emerging findings that could aid the global response.

Specifically, we commit to work together to help ensure:

- all peer-reviewed research publications relevant to the outbreak are made immediately open access, or freely available at least for the duration of the outbreak
- research findings relevant to the outbreak are shared immediately with the WHO upon journal submission, by the journal and with author knowledge
- research findings are made available via preprint servers before journal publication, or via platforms that make papers openly accessible before peer review, with clear statements regarding the availability of underlying data
- researchers share interim and final research data relating to the outbreak, together with protocols and standards used to collect the data, as rapidly and widely as possible - including with public health and research communities and the WHO
- authors are clear that data or preprints shared ahead of submission will not pre-empt its publication in these journals

We intend to apply the principles of this statement to similar outbreaks in the future where there is a significant public health benefit to ensuring data is shared widely and rapidly.

We urge others to make the same commitments. If your organisation is committed to supporting these principles, please contact us (d.carr@wellcome.ac.uk) and we will add your organisation to the list of signatories

SIGNATORIES

Academy of Medical Sciences, UK

African Academy of Sciences

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response / Biodefense Advanced Research and Development Authority, USA

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

BioRxiv

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), UK

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

The British Medical Journal (BMJ)

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation – Gulbenkian Science Institute

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), USA

Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

The Department for International Development (DFID)

DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Dutch Research Council (NWO)

eLife

EcoHealth Alliance

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European Respiratory Journal

ERJ Open Research

F1000 Research Limited

Fondation Merieux

Food & Drug Administration, USA

French National Research Agency (ANR)

The Global Health Network

Global Virus Network

GLOPID-R

Inserm (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale), France

The Institut Pasteur

International Severe Acute Respiratory and emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC)

International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID)

Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Johnson & Johnson

The Lancet

Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)

Medical Research Council (UK)

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

MedRxiv

Merck Research Laboratories

Microbide Limited

National Academy of Medicine, USA

National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA

National Institute for Infectious Diseases Lazzaro Spallanzani, Italy

New England Journal of Medicine

Office of Global Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, USA

Portland Press

PLOS

The Research Council of Norway

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ZonMW - The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development

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- Yes**
- No**

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