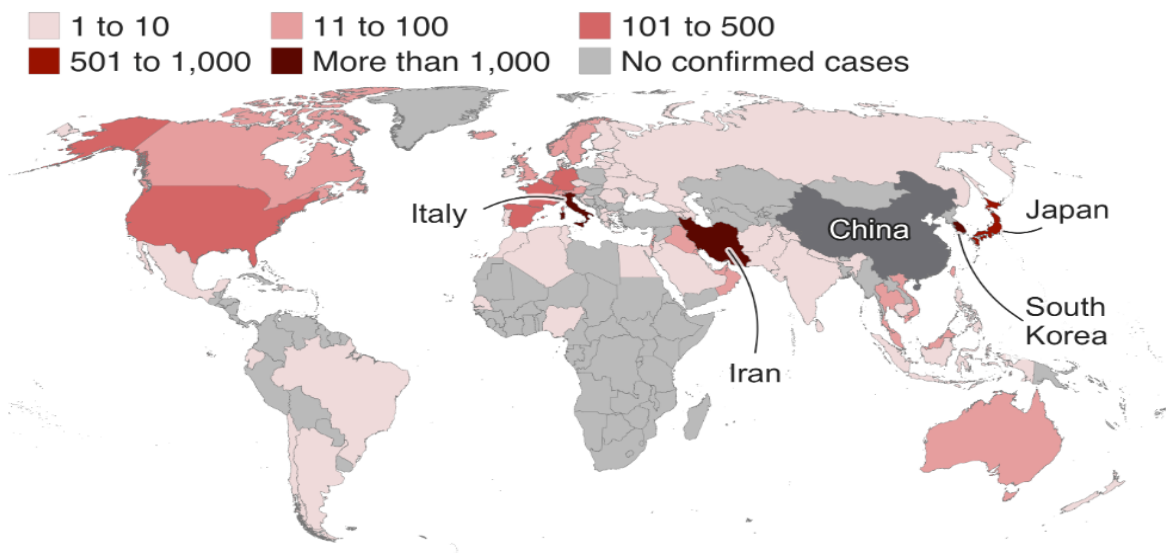# Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19
04.03.2020

- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 3,200 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China. There have been more than 94,300 global cases.

- Italy will close all schools and universities around the country until the middle of this month as officials work to contain the outbreak.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) says the novel coronavirus is deadlier than seasonal flu strains. "*No one has built up immunity to the new virus, that means more people are susceptible to infection, and some will suffer severe disease*", said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. He put the death rate for Covid-19 at around 3.4%, but experts urged caution around this figure.

- John Edmunds, professor in the Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said in a written statement that "*it is surprisingly difficult*" to calculate the mortality rate during an active epidemic. This is because "the time between onset of disease and death is quite long," he said, so the number of deaths should be divided by the number of cases there were two or three weeks earlier.

- The quarantined dog of a coronavirus patient in Hong Kong could be the first case of human-to-animal transmission, animal health experts in Hong Kong have said, although they cautioned that the matter remained under investigation. The agriculture, fisheries and conservation department (AFCD) said a pet dog had repeatedly tested weak positive for the virus, which indicates a low level of infection.

- EU officials in Brussels have been alerted to a second possible case of coronavirus infection within the bloc's institutions. Staff in the EU council have been advised that an unnamed colleague has fallen ill and "appropriate cleaning" was being undertaken in the relevant offices in Brussels.

- Bill and Melinda Gates have paid for 15,000 medicinal molecules to be shipped to a leading laboratory in Belgium to be tested as a potential cure for the coronavirus. The therapeutic samples, all active ingredients in current antiviral treatments, will be screened at high speed for their inhibiting effect on particles developed from a swab from the first Belgian patient to be diagnosed.

- The government of France is taking control of the stocks and production of surgical masks in the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak, Health Minister Olivier Véran announced today.

- There are already 54 confirmed coronavirus cases in Switzerland. A further 39 people were tested positive by a first laboratory. "*The situation is serious and is becoming increasingly serious*," said Daniel Koch from the BAG.

- There are 130 cases of the novel coronavirus, including nine deaths, in the United States, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as state and local governments. This includes presumptive positive cases that tested positive in a public health lab and are pending confirmation from the CDC, and confirmed cases have received positive results from the CDC.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
China	80'282	2'981	50'000
S. Korea	5'621	35	41
Iran	2'922	92	552
Italy	2'502	79	160
Diamond Princess	706	6	212
Japan	319	6	43
Germany	262	0	16
France	212	4	12
Spain	202	1	2
USA	132	9	9
Singapore	110	0	78
Hong Kong	103	2	37
Switzerland	93	0	3
U.K.	85	0	8
Kuwait	56	0	0
Bahrain	52	0	1
Australia	50	2	21
Malaysia	50	0	22
Norway	48	0	0
Thailand	43	1	30
Taiwan	42	1	12
Netherlands	38	0	0
Sweden	35	0	1
Canada	33	0	7
Iraq	32	0	0
India	28	0	3
Austria	27	0	0
U.A.E.	27	0	5
Belgium	23	0	1
Iceland	20	0	1
San Marino	16	1	0
Vietnam	16	0	16
Israel	15	0	1
Lebanon	13	0	0
Oman	12	0	2
Macao	10	0	9
Denmark	10	0	0
Croatia	9	0	0
Greece	9	0	0
Algeria	8	0	0
Czechia	8	0	0
Qatar	8	0	0
Ecuador	7	0	0
Finland	7	0	1
Belarus	6	0	0
Mexico	6	0	1
Romania	6	0	2
Pakistan	5	0	0
Portugal	5	0	0
Philippines	3	1	2
Azerbaijan	3	0	0
Georgia	3	0	0
Russia	3	0	2
Brazil	2	0	0
Egypt	2	0	1
Estonia	2	0	0
Indonesia	2	0	0
Ireland	2	0	0
New Zealand	2	0	0
Senegal	2	0	0
Afghanistan	1	0	0
Andorra	1	0	0
Armenia	1	0	0
Cambodia	1	0	1
Dominican Republic	1	0	0
Jordan	1	0	0
Latvia	1	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0
Luxembourg	1	0	0
North Macedonia	1	0	0
Monaco	1	0	0
Morocco	1	0	0
Nepal	1	0	1
Nigeria	1	0	0
Saudi Arabia	1	0	0
Sri Lanka	1	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0
Ukraine	1	0	0
Argentina	1	0	0
Chile	1	0	0
Faeroe Islands	1	0	0
Liechtenstein	1	0	0
Poland	1	0	0

- About 100 Hongkongers who were evacuated from Japan after being stranded on a coronavirus-hit cruise liner finally finished their 14-day quarantine at a public housing estate at midnight on Wednesday.
- A number of coronavirus patients in mainland China have tested positive for infection after earlier being cleared, though medical experts say it is unlikely they were infected twice and have warned against releasing people from hospital prematurely.

Funding opportunities for researchers

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) - Call Open on Therapeutics and Diagnostics Combatting Coronavirus Infection

- https://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=499&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=1168&no_cache=1&user_id=51472&job_id=4718

SNF - Special call for research into coronaviruses

- http://www.snf.ch/en/researchinFocus/newsroom/Pages/news-200227-special-call-for-research-into-coronaviruses.aspx

Wellcome Trust:

- https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19

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