

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

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- The coronavirus outbreak has infected more than 73,000 people globally and killed 1,875, including five people outside mainland China.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) isn't calling coronavirus a "pandemic".
- Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said *"We had lots of controversies during the H1N1 situation, around when it was pandemic and when it wasn't pandemic, and I think we need to be careful in using the term 'pandemic'. The real issue here is whether we're seeing efficient community transmission outside of China. And at the present time, we're not observing that"*.
- Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses common among animals. In rare cases, they are what scientists call zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted from animals to humans, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Concerns are mounting about how long the novel coronavirus may survive on surfaces. Actually, it is unknown how long the virus can linger on contaminated surfaces and object with the potential of infecting people, but some researchers are finding clues by studying the elusive behaviors of other coronaviruses.
- *"By the end of this week, 40 countries in Africa and 29 in the Americas are expected to have the ability to detect the disease caused by the novel coronavirus"*, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said today during a press briefing. He added: *"We have not seen sustained local transmission of coronavirus except in specific circumstances like the Diamond Princess cruise ship."*
- WHO delegation of medical experts heading to other regions after meetings in Beijing – but will not visit the outbreak's epicenter of Hubei.
- Liu Zhiming, head of the Wuchang hospital in Wuhan, died from the virus this morning. China will designate medical workers who died while working to combat the virus as "martyrs".
- The severity of the novel coronavirus is higher than flu — but perhaps not as high as the 2.3% death rate that has been reported by Chinese authorities, said Dr. Anthony Fauci today. He also added, *"My sense and the sense of many of my colleagues is that the ultimate case fatality rate is less than 2%"*, and *"What is likely not getting counted is a large number of people who are either asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic"*.
- Chinese citizens who bought medicine to treat fever and coughs in Hubei province will be subjected to extra screening and may be quarantined if necessary by authorities. Health workers will collect the personal information of those who purchased the medication in Hubei from January 20, regardless of whether they bought it online or offline.
- The disembarkation of some passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined in Yokohama will begin on Wednesday, the Japanese Minister of Health, said. *"Everyone wants to go home, I would like to create the situation where they can go home smoothly,"* Katsunobu Kato said.

- French health minister Olivier Veran said today there is a “credible risk” the novel coronavirus outbreak could turn into a pandemic.
- A British family who contracted coronavirus in the French ski resort has been discharged from hospital.
- Singapore is increasing isolation conditions for those who have returned or transited through mainland China.
- Israel bars entry to foreigners travelling from Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore and Thailand over coronavirus fear.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
Mainland China	72,440	1,870	12,994
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	542	0	17
Singapore	81	0	29
Japan	74	1	20
Hong Kong	62	1	2
Thailand	35	0	17
South Korea	31	0	12
Malaysia	22	0	11
Taiwan	22	1	2
Germany	16	0	9
Vietnam	16	0	7
Australia	15	0	10
USA	15	0	3
France	12	1	5
Macau	10	0	5
U.K.	9	0	8
U.A.E	9	0	3
Canada	8	0	1
India	3	0	3
Philippines	3	1	2
Italy	3	0	0
Spain	2	0	2
Russia	2	0	2
Cambodia	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	1	0	1
Finland	1	0	1
Nepal	1	0	1
Sweden	1	0	0
Egypt	1	0	0
Belgium	1	0	1
Total	73,438	1,875	13,169

Funding opportunities for researchers

Possible funding - The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI):

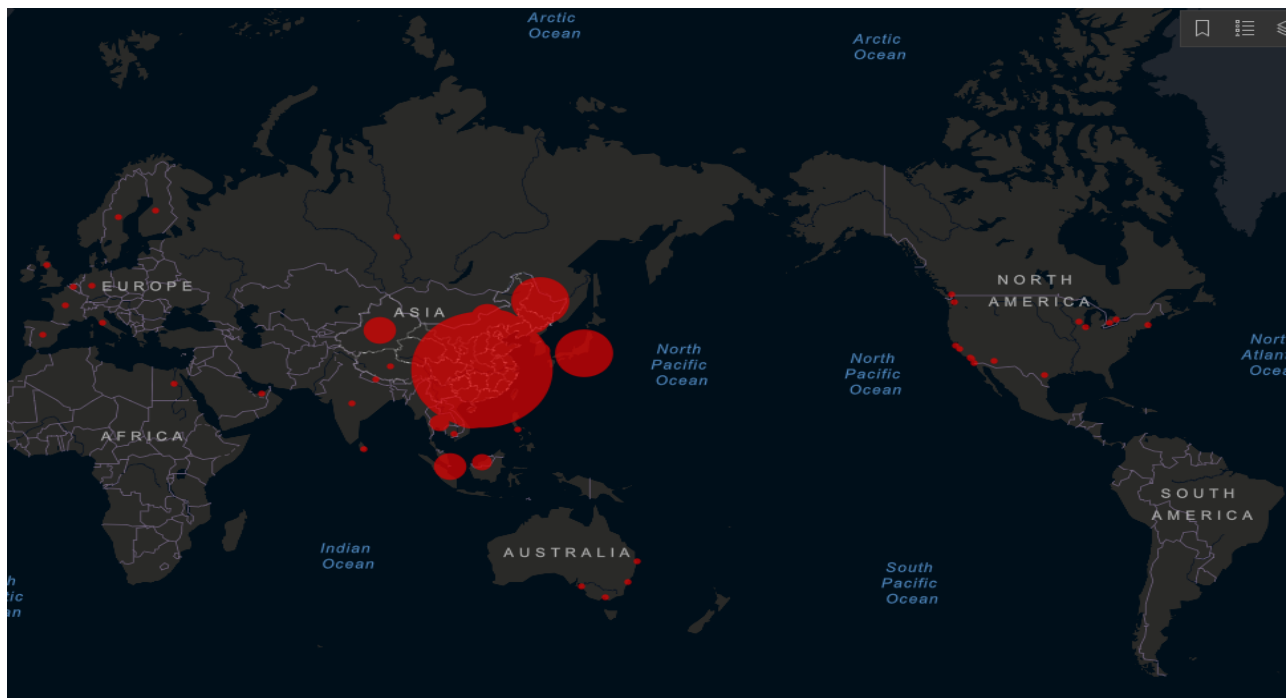
- <https://www.euresearch.ch/en/euresearch-services/we-inform/newsletter/archive/e-alerts/e-alerts/article/imi-about-to-launch-a-call-on-the-new-coronavirus/>

Wellcome Trust:

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

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease:

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-030.html>



Sources

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<https://edition.cnn.com/asia/live-news/coronavirus-outbreak-02-18-20-intl-hnk/index.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/feb/18/coronavirus-outbreak-updates-coronavirus-live-updates-hubei-deaths-china-wuhan-outbreak-apple-iphone-death-toll-latest-news>

<https://www.lshrm.ac.uk/newsevents/events/coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>