

## Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

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- The coronavirus outbreak has infected more than 75,000 people globally and killed 2,012, including six people outside mainland China.
- A vaccine for the novel coronavirus could take 12 to 18 months, WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Tuesday. But a vaccine is preparing for “the worst situation,” he said, and for now, long-term preparation needs to be balanced with immediate public health solutions that contain the virus and keep the fatality rate low.
- A group of 27 public health experts from eight countries have signed an open letter in British medical journal *The Lancet* to support Chinese scientists and public health and medical workers fighting the outbreak and to quash conspiracy theories surrounding it.
- China’s National Health Commission issued its sixth national treatment and diagnosis plan for the novel coronavirus today, which confirmed that the virus was mainly transmitted through respiratory droplets and close contact with infected people.
- More than 1,000 people have now been infected with the virus outside mainland China. Japan, Singapore and South Korea have reported a steady rise in cases, with the Korean Centers for Disease Control confirming 20 new infections today, bringing the country's total to 51.
- Iran has confirmed its first two cases of coronavirus, the country’s health ministry announced today.
- A 70-year-old man became the second fatality of the coronavirus in the semiautonomous Chinese financial hub of Hong Kong today. He was diagnosed on February 14, and had been staying in Princess Margaret Hospital. He was also suffering from chronic diseases before catching the virus.
- The remaining passengers aboard the *Diamond Princess* in Japan began disembarking Wednesday after a 14-day quarantine. More people from the quarantined cruise ship tested positive for the novel coronavirus today, according to the Japanese Health Ministry. The ministry said 79 new cases were confirmed, adding that 68 of the people were said to be asymptomatic.
- Cambodian health authorities announced today that 781 of the passengers from the *Westerdam* cruise ship had tested negative for the novel coronavirus. It will be a relief for the more than 1,500 passengers and crew remaining in Cambodia. They were all preparing to leave when one former passenger tested positive for the virus in Malaysia.
- China on Wednesday said it would expel three Wall Street Journal reporters working in mainland China, in a significant escalation of Beijing’s pressure on the foreign news media.
- Adam Kucharski, a mathematician and epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said the potential under-reporting of cases in China, and the fact that fatalities will continue as the number of new cases slows down, meant the death rate could vary over time. The mortality rate for the new coronavirus is estimated to be around 2.5%. For comparison, seasonal flu typically has a mortality rate below 1%.

- A couple from Japan tested positive for novel coronavirus shortly after visiting Hawaii this month, and Delta Airlines says it is notifying passengers who were on their flight home about the couple's diagnosis.
- The Swiss government has postponed an annual summit on patient safety due to the outbreak.
- Russia bans entry for Chinese citizens but will continue to issue official, business, humanitarian and transit visas to Chinese nationals.
- China had received 16 tons of supplies from the United States, including face masks and other protective gear.

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Recovered</b>
Mainland China	74,188	2,006	14,914
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	621	0	17
Singapore	84	0	34
Japan	84	1	20
Hong Kong	63	2	5
South Korea	51	0	16
Thailand	35	0	17
USA	29	0	3
Taiwan	23	1	2
Malaysia	22	0	15
Germany	16	0	9
Vietnam	16	0	7
Australia	15	0	10
France	12	1	5
Macao	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
Iran	2	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,303</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>15,114</b>

## 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/>

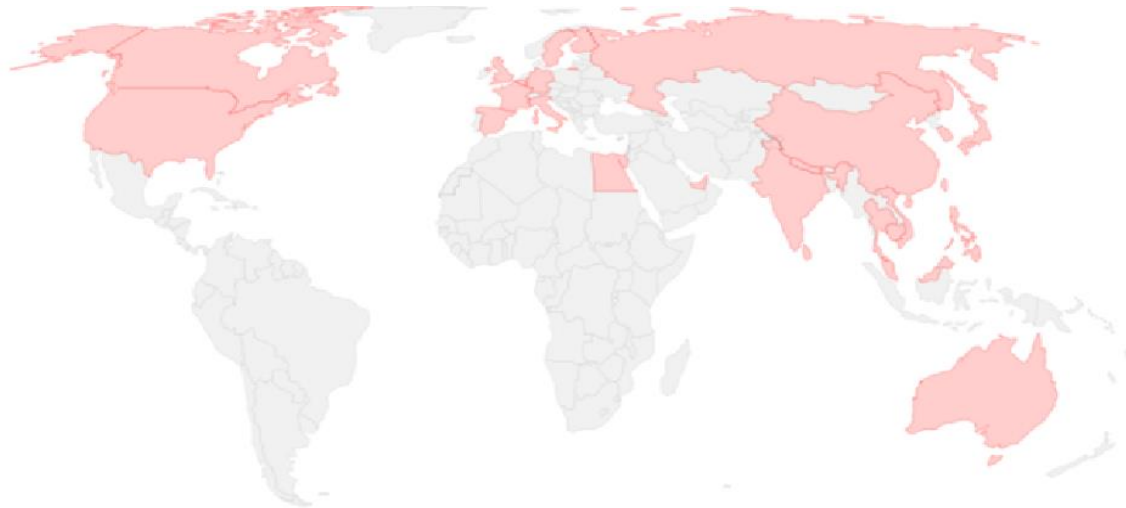
Wellcome Trust:

- <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>

## Coronavirus` global spread



## Sources

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