

[Join Our Email List](#)

COVID-19

Daily updates on the emerging novel coronavirus from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

The Center for Health Security will be analyzing and providing updates on the emerging novel coronavirus. If you would like to receive these daily updates, please [sign up here](#) and select COVID-19. Additional resources are now available on our [website](#).

February 18, 2020

EPI UPDATES China's Health Commission [reports](#) 1,886 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total of confirmed cases to 72,436, along with 1,868 deaths and 12,552 patients who have been discharged. The majority of new cases (96%) were reported in China's Hubei province.

WHO's latest [situation report](#) reports 111 new COVID-19 cases in countries outside of China, 99 of which were tied to passengers and crew on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There are now 794 confirmed cases outside of China across 25 countries. The WHO also clarified that, from today onwards, they will be reporting all confirmed cases, including laboratory confirmed and patients in Hubei province who were clinically diagnosed.

The Japanese Ministry of Health [reports](#) that the total number of confirmed cases tied to the Diamond Princess cruise ship has increased to 542 out of 2,404 patients tested, and that 254 (47%) of positive cases were asymptomatic carriers. For those [passengers](#) preparing to disembark, those with no symptoms over the 14 days and that test negative for the virus will not be kept under further health observation after leaving the ship.

CONTINUED CHINESE RESPONSE Reports [surfaced](#) earlier this morning that Liu Zhiniming, the director of one of Wuhan's largest hospitals, died from COVID-19. There are [reports](#) that approximately 25,000 medical professionals have been dispatched to Hubei province, the outbreak epicenter, to help fight the disease. In other news, the number of Chinese residents that face movement and travel restrictions continues to grow. According to [an analysis](#) of local government announcements done by the New York Times, there may be over 150 million people facing restrictions on movement from their homes. Chinese news outlets

are also [announcing](#) that the country's annual parliamentary meeting, scheduled to occur in early March, will most likely be delayed.

NEW WHO MASS GATHERINGS GUIDANCE The WHO [released](#) a set of publications and trainings relating to the management of points of entry and mass gatherings. The publications cover topics including public health preparedness and response for aviation and maritime companies, as well as the management of ill travelers via air, ground and sea. The page also offers two online courses pertaining to preparation and recommendations for mass gatherings during the COVID-19 outbreak. This technical guidance is freely available.

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE The Singapore Ministry of Health [reports](#) 81 confirmed COVID-19 cases. There are currently 28 tests pending results and 1,051 that have tested negative. Of the four new cases [reported](#) today, three of the cases have ties to the Grace Assembly of God church and one has ties to a previously reported case. Reports [suggest](#) that the Grace Assembly of God has suspended services.

ECONOMIC IMPACT On Monday, Apple issued a [statement](#) that describes the anticipated impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on their business in the first quarter of this year. The company foresees iPhone supplies being constrained globally and lower demand for products in the Chinese market. They further noted that "[w]ork is starting to resume around the country, but we are experiencing a slower return to normal conditions than we had anticipated." In a related [article](#), the New York Times observed that Apple was one of the first global businesses to disclose the financial implications of COVID-19.

In China, the economic sector has faced a number of challenges as large portions of the country's workforce remain idle. According to [Caixin](#), fewer than a third of the Chinese migrant labor workforce have returned to their jobs. In addition, the COVID-19 outbreak is one of several global factors [listed](#) in HSBC Bank's decision to cut almost 35,000 jobs from their payroll over the next 3 years.

Subscribe to our newsletter



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for
Health Security



