



# 2019-nCoV

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 "2019-nCoV." Additional resources are now available on our [website](#).

## January 29, 2020 - Morning Update

**EPI UPDATE** China's National Health Commission [reported](#) that a total of 5,974 confirmed cases and 132 deaths have been reported across 31 provinces as of January 28th. 9,239 suspected cases have also been reported. According to a WHO situation report published [yesterday](#), 56 confirmed cases in 14 countries have been found outside of China.

The UAE is [reporting](#) a case cluster in a family of four that had arrived from Wuhan in early January. All family members are reportedly in stable condition. These are the first confirmed cases [reported](#) in WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region. No new cases have been found in the US; the number of confirmed cases remains at 5.

**STEPS TO PREVENT A US NCOV EPIDEMIC** Former National Security Council Director Dr. Luciana Borio and former FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb have called for additional steps to prevent the transmission of nCoV within the United States. Drs. Borio and Gottlieb [recommend](#): (1) the prompt identification and isolation of nCoV patients using a PCR assay; (2) increasing influenza vaccination rates to reduce the burden of respiratory disease on the healthcare system; (3) bolstering healthcare preparedness and infection control procedures. Stress on the supply chain for personal protective equipment should be anticipated; (4) supporting [CEPI's](#) rapid vaccine research, development, and manufacturing efforts.

**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS** Growing case counts within China have prompted increasingly restrictive travel policies. Al Jazeera [reports](#)

that several major airlines, including British Airways and United Airlines, have suspended flights to and from mainland China. Additionally, the United States [is reportedly considering](#) the possibility of a travel ban on all flights to and from China as a way to mitigate the spread of n-CoV. This would be a step beyond the Department of State's current [travel advisory](#) which is currently at a 'level 3' for all of mainland China and 'level 4' for Hubei Province.

**EVACUATIONS** Despite [reassurances](#) from WHO Director General Tedros that evacuations of foreign nationals from Wuhan, China are not needed at this time, [multiple nations](#), including [Japan](#), Russia, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, [India](#), and [South Korea](#) are taking [steps](#) to repatriate their citizens. [US evacuees](#) will be transported to a military base in southern California and quarantined.

**PROTESTS IN HONG KONG** More than 15,000 Hospital Authority employees have joined a new union, [threatening to strike](#) if the Hong Kong government does not close its border with mainland China. There are also [reports](#) of other protestors disrupting travel services in Hong Kong to encourage a border closure. Hong Kong has already announced a suspension of rail services to and from the mainland, and has reduced the number of flights.

**WHO RESPONSE** China has agreed to receive an international team of experts under WHO auspices. Reuters [reported](#) that "The two sides agreed that WHO will send international experts to visit China as soon as possible to work with Chinese counterparts on increasing understanding of the outbreak to guide global response efforts,". No timeline was given. In other news, the WHO is also [setting up](#) a Global 2019-nCoV Clinical Data Platform to allow Member States to contribute anonymized clinical data to inform the public health clinical response.

**NCOV GROWN IN AN AUSTRALIAN LABORATORY** A team of researchers at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity [announced](#) the successful culturing of the 2019-nCoV virus. The rapid availability of viral samples is important to understanding the virus and developing new vaccines and therapeutics.\*

**MODELING UPDATES** Two infectious disease [modeling](#) groups have [assessed](#) the impact of travel screening procedures being put in place to reduce global nCoV transmission. Both found that travel screening is likely to miss at least half of infected travelers. One of the groups, based at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has [released](#) an interactive tool to allow decision-makers to explore the parameter space. Other [modeling studies](#) find that the incubation period is likely around 5-6 days.

**NEPAL CLOSING BORDER WITH CHINA** The [border](#) between Nepal and China will be closed for 15 days. This news comes after Nepal confirmed a case of nCoV on Jan. 24. Security and immigration authorities in China and Nepal decided to close the border in an attempt to "[strengthen vigil\[ence\]](#)" around the coronavirus outbreak.

\*This post was updated at 5:21 EST on January 29th.

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