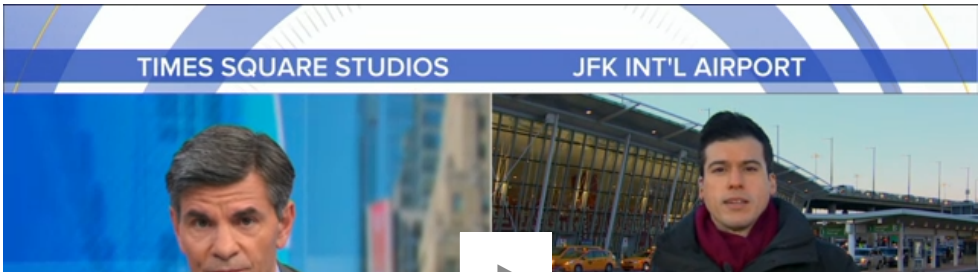


201 cases of SARS-like virus reported throughout China, officials say

Three people have died from the virus.

By **Julia Jacobo** and **Christine Theodorou**
January 19, 2020, 5:19 PM • 5 min read



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More than 200 cases of the new coronavirus, a [SARS-like illness](#), have been reported throughout China.

In Wuhan, where the virus began to spread, 198 cases have been reported, according to the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission. Two people have tested positive in Beijing, according to reports on Weibo, citing the Beijing Daxing Health Commission, and one person has tested positive in Shenzhen, according to the Guangdong Province Health Commission.

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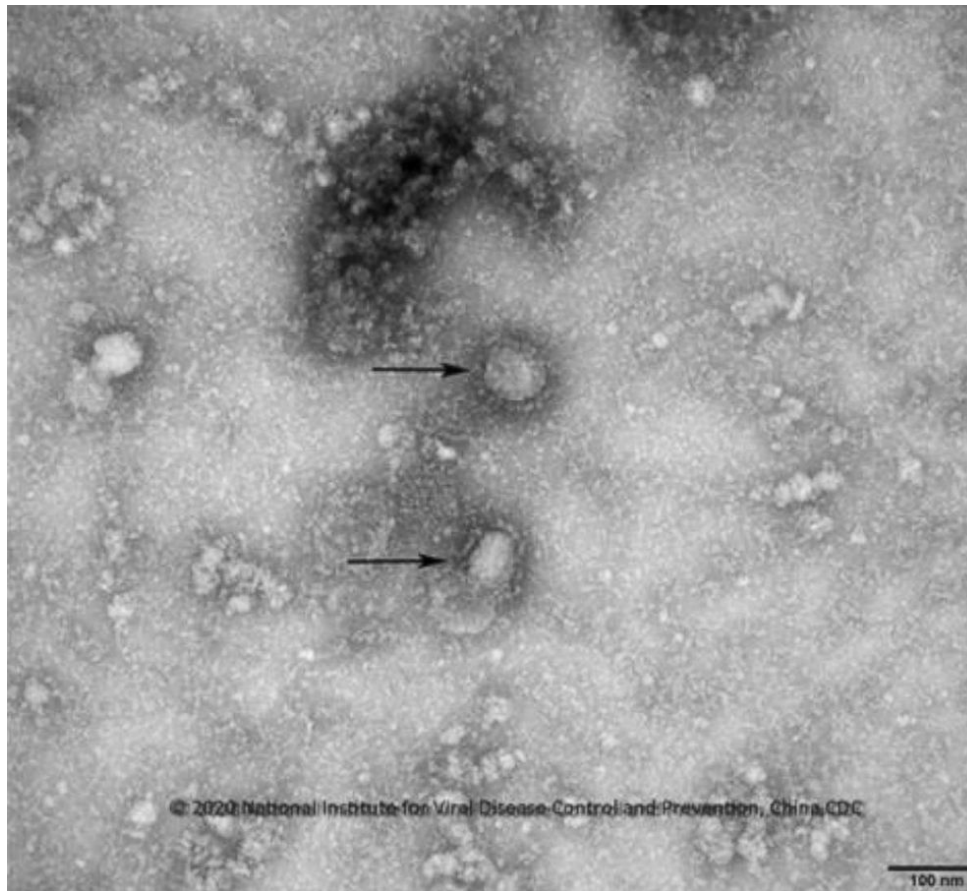


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Three patients have [died from the virus](#), which is in the same family as SARS, MERS and the common cold. Another eight patients are currently hospitalized in serious condition.

[Travelers passing through](#) San Francisco International Airport, New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Los Angeles International Airport are being screened for pneumonia-like symptoms associated with the illness as concerns heighten that the virus will spread during increased travel for the Chinese New Year, which begins on Jan. 25 and ends on Feb. 8.



 Yonhap News via Newscom

This photo, provided by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (KCDC), shows a n. [Read More](#)

On Thursday, a case of the coronavirus was reported in [Japan](#). The patient, a man in his 30s, had traveled to Wuhan but did not visit the large seafood market in the city, which has been linked to many of the reported cases. Another case outside of China was reported on Monday in Thailand, where a Chinese tourist from Wuhan was hospitalized on Jan. 8.

The novel virus is a new strain that has not previously been identified in humans. The seafood market was shut down and disinfected on Jan. 1, but new cases suggested that the risk of transmission is not over.

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There is no "clear evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission," since neither the patient in Japan nor the one in Thailand had visited the seafood market, according to the World Health Organization. However, [health](#) officials have not ruled out the possibility.

"There are indications that some limited person-to-person spread may have occurred," the CDC said on Friday.



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Medical staff carry a patient into the Jinyintan hospital, where patients infected with a new strain..[Read More](#)


On Jan. 10, WHO published a range of interim guidance for all countries on how they can prepare for this virus including how to monitor for sick people, test samples and treat patients but did not recommend any restrictions on travel.

"Considering global travel patterns, additional cases in other countries are likely," according to WHO.

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In 2003, a six-month outbreak of SARS in southern China sickened more than 8,000 people and killed 774, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

ABC News' Erin Schumaker contributed to this report.

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