



The patient is a tourist from Wuhan | Anthony Kwan/Getty Images

Coronavirus case confirmed in Finland

There are now 10 cases identified in Europe, after France confirmed another on Wednesday.

By **JILLIAN DEUTSCH AND ASHLEIGH FURLONG** | 1/29/20, 7:05 PM CET | Updated 1/29/20, 8:58 PM CET

A new case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Finland, according to local media — the first in the Nordic region.

France also confirmed Wednesday evening its fifth case of the virus, according to French media. That raises the total number of known coronavirus cases in Europe to 10. Four cases have been identified in Germany.

The patient in Finland is a 32-year-old female tourist from Wuhan, who arrived in the country on Thursday and was staying at a ski resort in the northern town of Saariselkä. She began showing flu-like symptoms Sunday and went to the hospital on Tuesday.

Lapland's health district is now checking 15 people who may have been in contact with the virus. Mika Salminen, the director of Finland's Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), told the Hufvudstadsbladet newspaper that the risk of the disease spreading in Finland is still small.

Meanwhile, French Health Minister Agnès Buzyn said her country's fifth patient is the daughter of a Chinese tourist who had previously been diagnosed.

The World Health Organization announced it would reconvene its committee Thursday afternoon to consider again whether to declare an international public health emergency. The committee last week declined to declare that status.

At a press conference in Geneva, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday it would be good to have a more discerning traffic-light system to classify global health emergencies, with the options of “green,” “yellow” or “red” — an idea he said was being discussed.

This article has been updated since a fifth patient was confirmed in France.



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