



HEALTH AND SCIENCE

First Middle East cases of coronavirus confirmed in the UAE

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KEY POINTS

The infected patients are four members of a family that had traveled from Wuhan, China, a city of 11 million and the epicenter of the new virus that has killed 132 people and infected more than 6,000.

The UAE's Ministry of Health and Community Protection reported the family as being in a stable condition under medical observation.

The vast majority of deaths and infections are in mainland China.



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DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The first cases of the deadly [coronavirus](#) in the Middle East have been confirmed in the United Arab Emirates, the country's Ministry of Health and Community Protection said in a statement Wednesday.

The infected patients are four members of a family that had traveled from Wuhan, China, a city of 11 million and the epicenter of the new virus that has killed 132 people and infected more than 6,000. The vast majority of deaths and infections are in mainland China.

In its statement, the health ministry reported that the family members — a grandmother, two parents and their 9-year-old daughter — were in a stable condition under medical observation. Health authorities in the U.S. say the fatality rate for the respiratory disease is currently between 2% and 3%.

Warren Buffett answers your questions



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MOHAP UAE - وزارة الصحة ووقاية المجتمع الإماراتية
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Chinese family of 4 infected with new coronavirus in UAE

All of them are in stable condition and contained according to the internationally approved precautions [#mohap_uae#coronavirus](#)



Chinese family of 4 infected



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The Wuhan family had arrived in the UAE as tourists on Jan. 16, an undersecretary at the UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention [told the Associated Press](#).

While stressing there was no need for panic, the official, Hussein al-Rand, acknowledged that Emirati authorities were tracing the family's steps since their arrival into the country. Al-Rand told the AP that the grandmother of the family fell ill on Jan. 23, sought medical help and was tested positive for the coronavirus, six days before the case was publicly announced by UAE authorities.



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The rest of her family tested positive and was admitted into an unspecified hospital shortly thereafter. The World Health Organization had not reported these cases at the time they were discovered in the country.

The ministry did not specify where in the UAE the cases had appeared nor from which airport the family had entered.

"All family members are in stable condition and the situation was contained by following the most necessary precautionary measures adopted globally when dealing with infected cases," the ministry's statement said, adding that the situation was "not a cause for concern." It said that it was taking "necessary measures" approved by the World Health Organization.

The UAE said last week it would screen all passengers arriving at its airports from China. Dubai International Airport (DXB) is a popular transit hub for Asia and is the world's busiest airport in terms of passenger traffic.

Airlines suspending flights to China

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[travel to China](#), expanding its travel warning from the city of Wuhan to the entire country as the coronavirus outbreak worsens.



VIDEO 02:09

Impact of coronavirus outbreak on markets will likely fade out: Strategist

Hong Kong has halted transport links to mainland China and extended school closures after [declaring a virus emergency](#) for the city over the weekend.

Chinese authorities have restricted travel for at least 17 cities in its central Hubei province, where Wuhan is located. It is an area encompassing more than 50 million people. The virus is believed to have first appeared in a Wuhan seafood market also selling wildlife including snakes and marmots. Hubei on Sunday shut down inter-city and inter-province buses in an effort to curb the outbreak.

The [World Health Organization is sending a delegation](#) of researchers and other health experts to China to help combat the coronavirus outbreak. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing earlier Tuesday.

While the majority of confirmed coronavirus cases and deaths are in mainland China, the virus has also been identified in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Nepal, France, Germany, Australia, the UAE and the U.S.

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