

Philippines: Chinese patient cured, shows novel coronavirus is not uniformly fatal, says official

Woman, 38, who travelled with only victim to die outside China, no longer infectious

Published: February 10, 2020 15:47
Gulf News Web Report

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Philippine Health Secretary Francisco Duque III
Image Credit: AP

HIGHLIGHTS

Philippines: Chinese patient cured, shows novel coronavirus is not uniformly fatal, says offic...[f](#)[t](#)[r](#)

no longer showing symptoms

- She may be discharged soon
- There are 3 confirmed cases in the Philippines

- There is no known transmission in the country — but more than 200 cases are being monitored for possible exposure to those that have been confirmed
- "Hopefully there will be no more nCoV confirmed cases in the future," says official

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How Chinese tourist with coronavirus was cured in the Philippines

MANILA: The Philippines has announced that novel coronavirus patient has recovered, according to local media reports.

The first case of novel coronavirus in the Philippines — a Chinese tourist from Wuhan who had been travelling with a man who died of the virus — is no longer showing symptoms and may be discharged soon, according to a government official.

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The last test on the 38-year-old woman, conducted on 6 February, showed she was negative for the virus, according to the health department.

Two consecutive negative tests are required before a patient may be discharged.

“This shows the novel coronavirus is not uniformly fatal and that recovery is more likely than dying from the disease,” said Dr Edsel Salvana, director of the University of the Philippines (UP) Institute of Molecular Biology.

'Don't panic, don't share fake news'

“Please don’t panic and don’t share fake news.”

Salvana has been active on social media leading efforts to fight misinformation about the outbreak.



Edsel Maurice Salvana

about 2 weeks ago

During previous outbreaks due to other coronavirus (Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), human-to-human transmission occurred through droplets, contact and fomites, suggesting that the transmission mode of the 2019-nCoV can be similar. The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- Within health care facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.

WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider.

Ok let's try this again. Despite confusion regarding "airborne" transmission of nCoV, the MAIN mode of transmission for nCoV as far as we know is DROPLET. This means that the transmission of nCoV is most often due to close contact with sick people WITHIN 6 feet. It IS POSSIBLE to have airborne transmission in the hospital when they do procedures that can generate small aerosols such as suctioning, and THAT IS WHY healthcare workers use N95 masks. For the GENERAL PUBLIC, surgical masks for those who are sick AND frequent hand washing are EXPECTED to do the job. This is the WHO recommendation (attached) AT THIS TIME. Please do NOT panic and continue to listen for updates from the correct sources.

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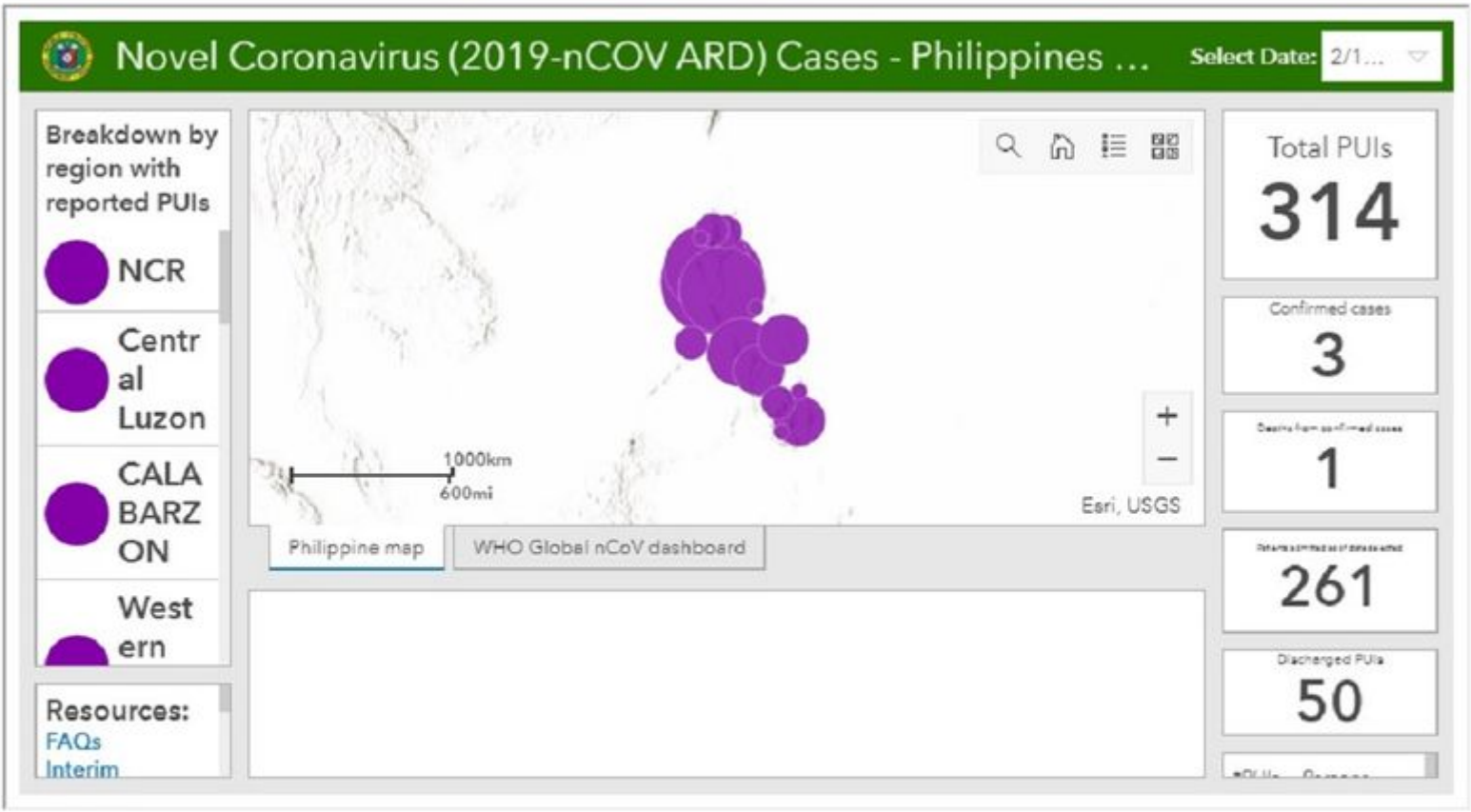
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DOH updates

There are still 261 PUIs (persons under investigation) admitted (out of 314, most of whom have been cleared), according to a Facebook post by Dr Salvana.

"Still only 3 confirmed, 1 dead, 2 recovered," said Dr. Salvana, Clinical Associate Professor at University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital and Adjunct Faculty for Global Health at University of Pittsburgh.

These are the [latest numbers from the Philippines' Department of Health](#). It shows that out of 314 PUIs, 109 cases tested negative. Test results in 202 cases are still pending — with only 3 confirmed cases.



Latest Updates

DATE	TIME	UPDATE
February 10, 2020	7:50 PM	DOH releases 2019-nCoV Daily Situational Report as of 10 February 2020
February 10, 2020	7:50 PM	EID Brings Home Filipinos From Wuhan, China

Source: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>
Image Credit: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>

"The first-ever confirmed case has now been discharged which means she has had TWO negative tests. There are no new confirmed cases and no more admitted confirmed cases," he added.

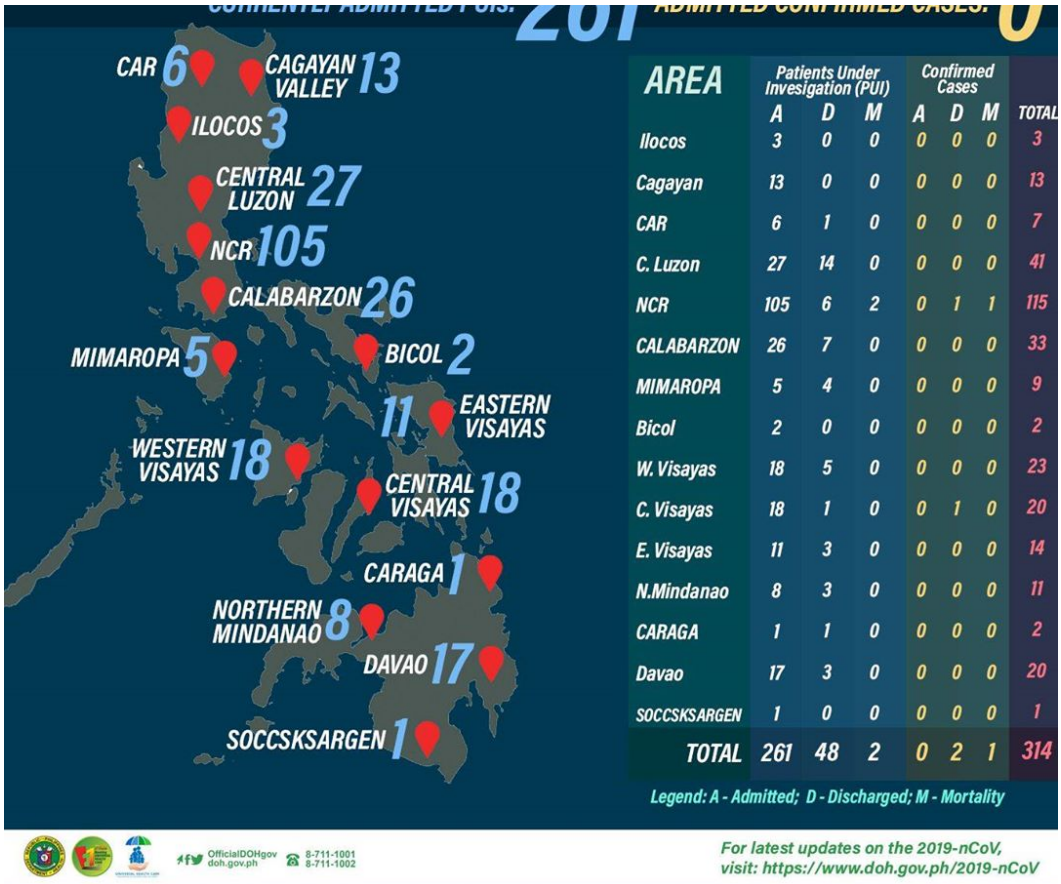
"Hopefully there will be no more nCoV confirmed cases in the future. Let's keep praying for the safety of our healthcare workers. Follow instructions and don't share fake news. We will be okay," Dr Salvana wrote.



Passengers with protective masks wait at the departure area, following confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country, at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, in Manila, Philippines February 5, 2020. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez
Image Credit: REUTERS



Edsel Maurice Salvana
about 2 weeks ago



Latest DOH updates. There are still 261 PUIs admitted (out of 314, most of whom have been cleared). Still only 3 confirmed, 1 dead, 2 recovered. The first ever confirmed case has now been DISCHARGED which means she has had TWO negative tests. There are NO NEW CONFIRMED CASES and NO MORE ADMITTED CONFIRMED CASES. Hopefully there will be no more nCoV confirmed cases in the future. Let's keep praying for the safety of our healthcare workers. Follow instructions and don't share fake news. We will be okay.

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The government is also managing public concerns over the return of 30 Filipinos, including an infant, from Hubei province in China.

They arrived on a chartered plane early on Sunday and were brought to an isolated facility near Manila to begin a 14-day quarantine.

3 cases in the Philippines



People scramble to buy face masks in a medical supply store a day after the Philippine government confirmed the first novel coronavirus case, in Manila, Philippines, January 31, 2020. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez
Image Credit: REUTERS

The Philippines reported three cases.

The first case was the “travelling companion” reported to be the girlfriend of the 44-year-old Wuhan man who

The third, a 60-year-old woman also from Wuhan, was belatedly confirmed after she had left the country.

SITUATIONAL REPORT ON THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) **FEBRUARY 10, 2020 12:00 SMT - Report 010**

A. CASE SUMMARY OF THE 2019-nCoV



As of February 10, 2020 (12:00 NN) there are 261 Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) currently admitted in different health facilities.

Confirmed cases - 3
Cases tested negative - 109
Cases pending results - 202

Live, real-time updates on the number of PUIs and confirmed cases may be accessed at:

<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

B. DOH IN ACTION

1. The Inter- Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID)—led by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)—has repatriated a total of 32 Filipinos, including two DFA advance party personnel, from Wuhan City, China. The repatriates are considered as Persons Under Monitoring (PUM) and are currently being observed and isolated.
2. On-site medical staff from Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital will be working 24/7 to conduct daily monitoring of the vital signs and status of the PUMs, and provide appropriate health services to those who are quarantined.
3. DOH has declared code blue in all government hospitals, health offices, and other health facilities in the region for swift medical response. Those who will develop symptoms, such as fever, cough and colds, and other respiratory symptoms, will be immediately brought to a designated hospital for isolation and proper clinical management.
3. DOH was successful in securing the compliance and cooperation of PUIs who initially refused admission.
4. The Epidemiology Bureau, together with the PNP-CIDG, has identified all 441 contacts of the first and second case of 2019-nCoV ARD. For the third confirmed case, a total of 224 (56%) out of 403 contacts have traced, including co-passengers and individual contacts from hotels and hospitals.
5. DOH continuously updates the dedicated webpage for the 2019-nCoV Health Event. Verified and up-to-date information are immediately uploaded to the website to make it accessible to the public. Please visit <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>.

C. GLOBAL SITUATION

1. According to WHO, the total number of confirmed cases globally as of 9 February 2020 is at 37,558. Countries outside of China with confirmed cases include:

-Japan	-Singapore	-Cambodia	-Nepal	-USA	-Finland	-Italy
-Republic of Korea	-Australia	-Philippines	-Sri Lanka	-Canada	-Germany	-Russian Federation
-Viet Nam	-Malaysia	-Thailand	-India	-France	-UAE	-Spain
-Sweden	-UK	-Belgium	-Finland			

2. WHO Risk Assessment on 2019-nCoV Health Event

China: Very High
Regional Level: High
Global Level: High

D. HEALTH ADVISORIES

1. Always practice hand hygiene; wash hands with soap and running water, or apply alcohol-based sanitizer.
4. Maintain a one-meter distance from people manifesting flu-like symptoms or respiratory illness.
5. Avoid touching your nose and mouth.



SOURCE: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/basic-page/2019-nCoV-PhilSituationalReport02102020.jpg>

Image Credit: DOH

The health department said she appeared to have recovered from the coronavirus.

She was discharged after samples sent to Australia tested negative.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ADVISORY ON USE OF MASKS

The public is enjoined to judiciously use masks to prevent the shortage of surgical masks and N95 masks.

1. People in good health do NOT need to use face masks.
2. Use of surgical face masks is ONLY recommended for:
 - a. Persons caring for the sick
 - b. Persons with respiratory infection/symptoms coughing, sneezing, and/or have fever
 - c. Healthcare and other frontline workers (e.g. BI, PNP)
3. N95 masks must be reserved for healthcare and other frontline workers who are:
 - a. Attending to patients with respiratory infection/symptoms (cough, colds) or patients under investigation
 - b. Entering rooms of PUIs or confirmed nCoV patients to provide care or clean/disinfect the environment, or obtain clinical specimens (note: with complete PPE)
 - c. Handling clinical specimens, soiled medical supplies or equipment, or come in contact with potentially contaminated environmental surfaces

In all settings, masks should be used in combination with frequent hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rubs or soap/water.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

Source: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/basic-page/DOH%20Advisory%20on%20Use%20of%20Masks.pdf>

Image Credit: DOH

But a belated test of an earlier sample, conducted after the country acquired capability for local testing, was positive.

There is no known transmission in the country — but more than 200 cases are being monitored for possible

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Photos: Airports around the world on guard for Wuhan coronavirus

China health authorities confirms Wuhan virus is capable of human-to-human transmission

Published: January 22, 2020 17:03

Compiled by Christian Borbon, Digital Content Producer



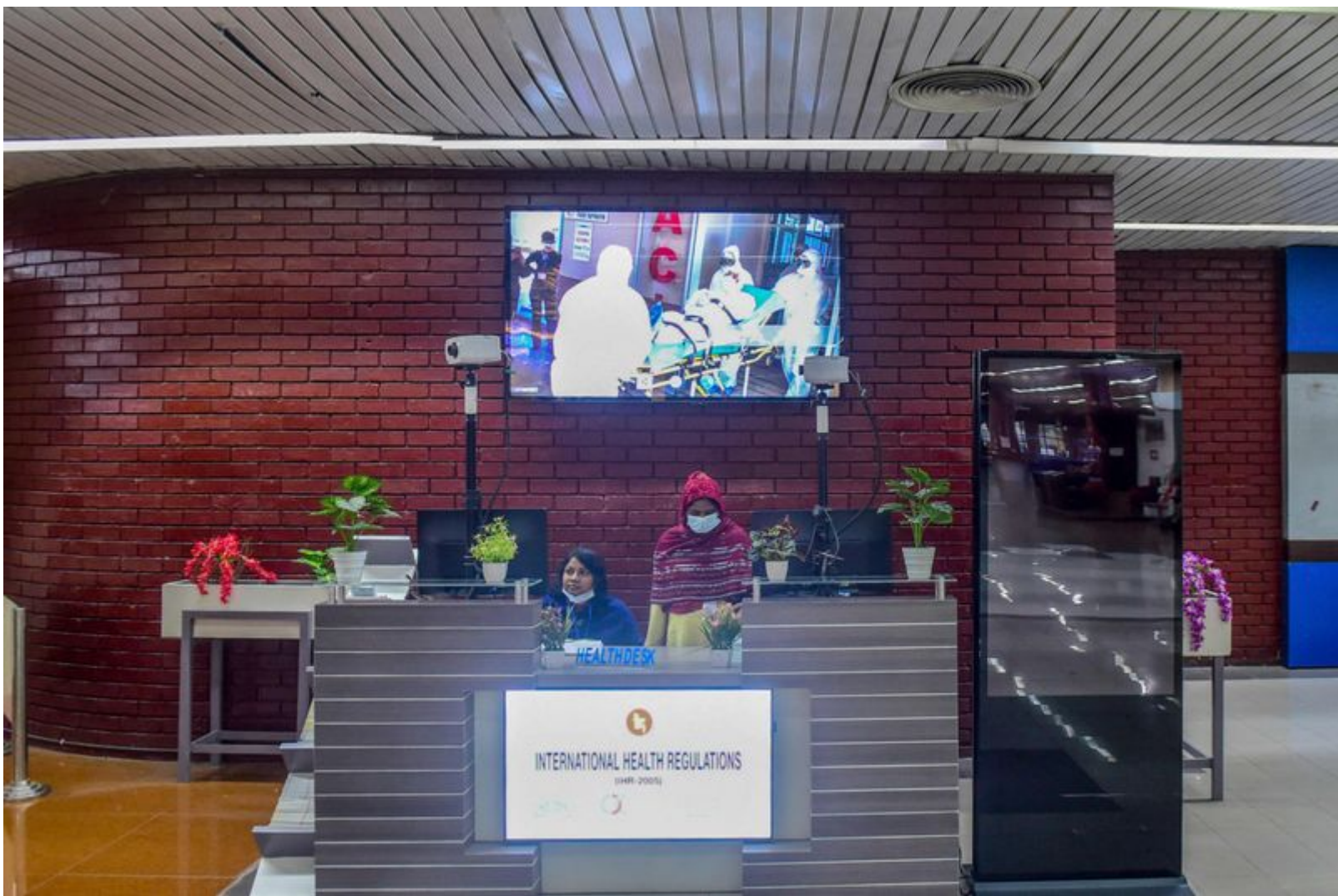
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A Philippine quarantine officer checks the temperature of a passenger from China at the international airport in Manila. The Philippines was probing on January 21, its potential first case of the SARS-like virus that has infected hundreds in China, health authorities said.

Image Credit: AFP

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Officials from Health Department of Bangladesh wait to screen arriving passengers from abroad in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. Meerzady Sabrina Flora, the director of Bangladesh's Institute of Epidemiology and Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said the institute has "issued an alert" especially in the country's main international airport in Dhaka as a precautionary measure against the Wuhan virus.

Image Credit: AFP

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Passengers arrive at the Juanda airport in Sidoarjo on the outskirts of Surabaya. A new virus that has killed nine people, infected hundreds and already reached the United States could mutate and spread, China warned January 21, as authorities scrambled to contain the disease during the Lunar New Year travel season

Image Credit: AFP

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Officials from Health Department of Bangladesh wait to screen arriving passengers from abroad in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Image Credit: AFP

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A thermographic camera screens the head of a man at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, following the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's advisory to screen passengers arriving in India from China and Hong Kong in different airports regarding the novel coronavirus (nCoV) issue.

Image Credit: AFP

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A quarantine officer (bottom) monitors a thermal scanner as passengers from an international flight arrive at Incheon international airport, west of Seoul. South Korea on January 20 confirmed its first case of the SARS-like virus that is spreading in China, as concerns mount about a wider outbreak.

Image Credit: AFP

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Officers work at a health screening station as they observe passengers arriving on a flight from Wuhan, China, where a SARS-like virus was discovered and has since spread, at Narita airport.

Image Credit: AFP

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Family members wear face masks as they pose for photos near a Lunar New Year installation in the arrivals hall at the international airport of Hong Kong, after China recently confirmed human-to-human transmission in the outbreak of the new SARS-like virus.

Image Credit: AFP

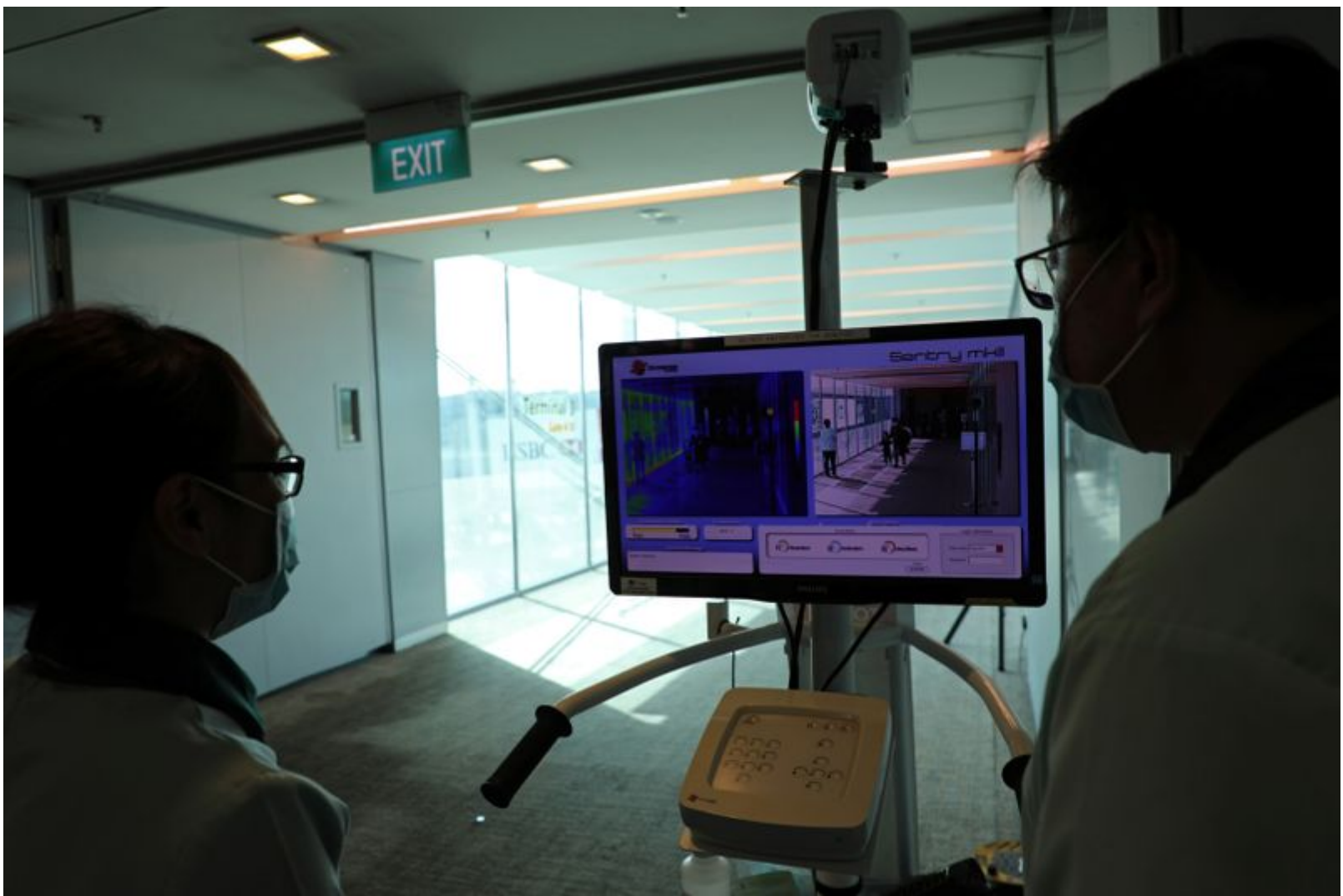
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A man (L) uses a thermographic camera to screen the head of people at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata, following the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's advisory to screen passengers arriving in India from China and Hong Kong regarding the novel coronavirus (nCoV) issue.

Image Credit: AFP

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Officials monitor thermal scanners as passengers walk past upon arrival of a flight from Hangzhou, China at Changi Airport, Singapore

Image Credit: Reuters

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Masked workers disinfect a passenger throughfare at the Taoyuan International Airport, after Taiwan on January 21 reported its first case of the new SARS-like virus from China. Taiwan should not be blocked from international bodies such as the World Health Organization, its president said on January 22, a day after the island confirmed its first case of a SARS-like virus from China

Image Credit: AFP

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A Chinese tourist wears a mask as he arrives at Suvarnabhumi Airport during a welcome ceremony of Chinese Lunar New Year travellers in Bangkok, Thailand

Image Credit: Reuters

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Health Officials in hazmat suits wait at the gate to check body temperatures of passengers arriving from the city of Wuhan, at the airport in Beijing, China

Image Credit: AP

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A health officer (L) screens arriving passengers from China at Changi International airport in Singapore as authorities increased measure against coronavirus.

Image Credit: AFP

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Health Officials in hazmat suits check body temperatures of passengers arriving from the city of Wuhan, at the airport in Beijing, China

Image Credit: AP

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A health official scans the body temperature of a passenger as she arrives at the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Indonesia. Indonesia is screening travelers from overseas for a new type of coronavirus as fears spread about a mysterious infectious disease after its first death reported in China.

Image Credit: AP

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Officials from Health Department of Bangladesh screen arriving passengers from abroad in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Image Credit: AFP

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Health official scan body temperatures of passengers as they arrive at the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Indonesia.

Image Credit: AP

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Health Officials in hazmat suits check body temperatures of passengers arriving from the city of Wuhan at the airport in Beijing, China

Image Credit: AP

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Health officers screen arriving passengers from China with thermal scanners at Changi International airport in Singapore.
Image Credit: AFP

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