With now over one hundred-thousand cases worldwide, the coronavirus pandemic is wreaking havoc worldwide. Commonly known as Covid-19, the virus has already caused many countries to ban all major gatherings and force all foriegn travellers to quarantine for at least two weeks. The extended effects of the virus are yet to be known but it is definite that there will be a huge economical and social impact here in New zealand.

Covid-19 is one of many varying coronavirus strains that cause illness such as fevers and colds, more serious strains of coronavirus include MERS and SARS. The coronavirus strains are zoonotic meaning they can be transmitted between animals and humans and Covid-19 is so far known to have originated from bats. Originally seen in China and now throughout Europe and other parts of Asia, the spread of Covid-19 is indomitable.

Even with very few Coronavirus cases in New Zealand, all gatherings of over 500 people have now been banned and all people arriving in the country must self isolate for two weeks. These restrictions are a deterrent for tourists, meaning the great majority of tourists no longer wish to travel here. With tourism as New Zealand’s biggest form of revenue, the lack of tourists will cause a large disruption to the country's GDP. Approximately 4 million tourists travel to NZ each year, most of which stay in hotels, fly, and participate in various attractions. Without these tourists the price of all these things will have to be significantly reduced to incentivise people to travel and stay thus resulting in far less income. Depending on how much the virus spreads, or if it lasts for a prolonged period of time, it is likely that all domestic travel could also be banned which would mean a great deal of companies would eventually be forced to shut down.

With the world's second largest global economy and biggest trading nation in lockdown, China is set to have a huge impact on the world's economy. Chinese factory production has rapidly declined to the lowest point in 30 years. This is already a worse effect than the 2008 global financial crisis. The United States, Italy, Spain, Iran, France and Germany are all large nations that have also fallen victim to the disease. With the economies of all these countries also in freefall, there is a reluctance to purchase goods from other countries causing most trade to grind to a halt. The inability for New Zealand to trade goods with other countries will have a very noticeable effect on the economy. New Zealand exports a huge amount of agricultural products (mainly dairy and meat) which make up a significant part of the annual GDP. For example China, our biggest trade partner has ceased importing a lot of our products. A recent problem has been the perishable goods such as meat which now has nowhere to go so storehouses full of meat will have to go to waste.

As well as effects on the economy there will be many social effects of the virus. With the amount of financial worry around most people will be reluctant to spend money on travel and entertainment. The lack of tourists means the government will need to incentivise people to travel domestically, contrary to advice to stay at home but it is unlikely that people will want to travel in case of coming in contact with a case or spending money. Almost all gathering’s such as concerts, festivals and sports have been cancelled meaning there will also be an absence of entertainment.

As of now all people travelling to NZ must self isolate for two weeks. A common effect of self isolating is stress and anxiety. For those with pre-existing conditions having to isolate can be a fear for many of these people. Recently a large sum of money has been targeted at the health industry to focus on helping those with anxiety, stress and depression caused by the virus.

Overall it is clear that Coronavirus will have a substantial effect on the country. From tourism and industrial effects on the economy and the social effects. Coronavirus will cause many workers to be made redundant and many companies to entirely close having a significant effect on the economy and many peoples