

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

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- The coronavirus outbreak has infected more than 79,000 people globally and killed 2,628, including people outside mainland China.
- WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said today coronavirus has pandemic potential — but it's not there yet. Tedros said *"the decision to use the word pandemic is based on ongoing assessments of the geographic spread of the virus, severity and impact of the society and for the moment they are not witnessing the uncontained global spread of this virus"*. He added *"the virus is affecting countries across the world in different ways and requires a tailored response, adding it's not a one-size-fits-all response"*.
- *Remember:* There is no precise, mathematical definition of a pandemic. Outbreaks get characterized as pandemics by epidemiologists — who are not yet using the term. That's because they've yet to see sustained transmission among people who have not recently traveled to China or had close contact with someone who recently traveled to China.
- The Covid-19 has been linked to wild animals carrying a coronavirus and sold in markets for food. Most researchers believe the virus jumped from a market animal to a human host, mutated and then infected others. China said it will ban the trade and consumption of wild animals, a multibillion dollar industry that employs millions of people, as part of efforts to curb virus outbreaks.
- Europe's biggest outbreak is in Italy, where five people have died in Italy and restrictions have been imposed on some municipalities. Italy still has not identified "patient zero," the source of the coronavirus outbreak in the country. *"The important thing is to identify 'patient zero,' where he/she is from, and to stop this chain of infection,"* Angelo Borrelli, the head of Italy's civil protection agency, said. The outbreak in Italy remains in a contained area and has not spread outside of it, the head of the country's civil protection agency said today, adding that it remains safe to travel to Italy.
- South Korea announced 231 new cases today, with the nationwide total surging past 833. More than half of those are associated with a branch of a religious group.
- In Singapore, 53 of the city state's 90 cases have 'fully recovered from the infection' and been discharged from hospital, the Health Ministry said in a statement. Meanwhile, a countrywide appeal for funds to provide humanitarian assistance 'to the affected communities in China' has raised US \$4.3 million.
- European Commission gives financial support of €232 million to fight the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Japanese authorities are in contact with all 23 passengers who were released from the Diamond Princess cruise ship *by mistake*, the country's health ministry told CNN, adding that at least three of those passengers have retested negative for the coronavirus.
- US stocks plunged this morning on mounting worries about the spread of the coronavirus outside China to major economies including South Korea and Italy.
- Oman suspends flights to and from Iran during coronavirus outbreak.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
Mainland China	77,345	2,593	25,010
South Korea	833	8	22
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	691	3	17
Italy	229	6	27
Japan	154	1	23
Singapore	90	0	53
Hong Kong	79	2	25
Iran	61	12	188
Thailand	35	0	21
USA	35	0	7
Taiwan	30	1	33
Malaysia	22	0	18
Australia	22	0	11
Germany	16	0	14
Vietnam	16	0	15
U.K.	13	0	8
U.A.E	13	0	3
France	12	1	83
Macao	10	0	6
Canada	10	0	3
Philippines	3	1	2
India	3	0	3
Kuwait	3	0	0
Israel	2	0	0
<i>Oman</i>	2	0	0
Russia	2	0	2
Spain	2	0	2
Afghanistan	1	0	0
Bahrain	1	0	0
<i>Iraq</i>	1	0	0
Lebanon	1	0	0
Cambodia	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	1	0	1
Finland	1	0	1
Nepal	1	0	1
Sweden	1	0	0
Egypt	1	0	1
Belgium	1	0	1
Total	79,744	2,628	25,933

- Iran's health minister says the infections are believed to be linked to a merchant who bypassed travel restrictions by making indirect flights to China. Qom, south of the capital Tehran, has been

identified as the center of contagion, but authorities have warned it is possible the virus is present in all cities.

- U.A.E bans citizens from traveling to Iran and Thailand over outbreak.
- Iran is struggling to access novel coronavirus test kits due to US sanctions and newly imposed restrictions on Iran by a global money laundering watchdog.
- An Iranian student who entered Iraq prior to the country's travel ban on Iran has been confirmed to have coronavirus, according to a statement by Iraq's Ministry of Health on Monday. The student has been admitted into quarantine in the city of Najaf, the ministry added.
- Almost one-third of patients with HIV in China are within days of running out of their ART medications due to quarantines and other restrictions put in place to control the COVID-19 outbreak, and nearly half do not know where to collect their refill of antiretrovirals, a UNAIDS survey found.
- Researchers have identified the structure of a protein that could turn out to be a potential vaccine target for the coronavirus.



Jason McLellan/Univ. of Texas at Austin

This is a 3-D atomic scale map of the 2019-nCoV spike protein.

Funding opportunities for researchers

Possible funding - The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI):

- <https://www.euresearch.ch/en/euresearch-services/we-inform/newsletter/archive/e-alerts/e-alerts/article/imi-about-to-launch-a-call-on-the-new-coronavirus/>

Wellcome Trust:

- <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19>

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease:

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-030.html>

Sources

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