

## Cases outside China are rising

The number of cases of COVID-19 outside China jumped over the weekend, with Italy, South Korea and Iran reporting new infections. Kuwait, Bahrain, Afghanistan and Iraq also confirmed their first cases on 24 February.



## Coronavirus: hospitals must learn from past pandemics

Officials in Iran have reported up to 61 cases and 12 deaths. But the figures have been in flux, and case numbers will probably rise in the coming days, given that the number of deaths compared to overall cases is much higher than reported in other countries.

South Korea had confirmed 833 infections and 8 deaths as of 24 February, according to a [virus tracker maintained by researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland](#).

The virus is also spreading in Italy, where 230 people have been infected and 5 have died, according to the tracker.

At a meeting organized by the African Union on 22 February, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization, said he was especially worried about the rise in cases in Iran, South Korea and Italy. “The increasing signs of transmission outside China show that the window of opportunity we have for containing this virus is narrowing,” he said.

Meanwhile, more than 77,000 people have been infected in China, and the death toll there has passed 2,500.