

The death toll nearly doubles in China's coronavirus outbreak

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Highlight: Public celebrations of a Lunar New Year have been canceled and the country's seventy thousand movie theaters are closed. More than fifty million people are now under lockdown. In Hong Kong, public schools are shut down for the next month in an effort to contain the virus. The State Department is reportedly sending a charter flight to central China to take hundreds of Americans out of the region.

Body

DANA JACOBSON: In other news, the deadly coronavirus is spreading beyond mainland China where it has now claimed more than forty lives. Public celebrations of a Lunar New Year have been canceled and the country's seventy thousand movie theaters are closed. More than fifty million people are now under lockdown. In Hong Kong, public schools are shut down for the next month in an effort to contain the virus. The State Department is reportedly sending a charter flight to central China to take hundreds of Americans out of the region. There are known cases in eleven countries, including here in the U.S. where two confirmed cases are reported. At least sixty-three people are undergoing tests for the pneumonia-like illness in twenty-two states. Tom Hanson is here with the very latest. Tom, good morning.

TOM HANSON: Good morning, Dana. While China is taking drastic steps to contain the spread, the coronavirus has already made its way through the United States first infecting a Seattle man in his thirties. Now, we're learning more about another case of a traveler returning from the epicenter of the illness.

(Begin VT)

DR. ALLISON ARWADY (Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner): The patient is a woman in her sixties.

TOM HANSON: Six weeks into the outbreak that has sickened more than twelve hundred and killed at least forty-one people in China, public health officials in the United States announced a second confirmed case of the deadly coronavirus in Chicago.

DR. ALLISON ARWADY: She has limited close contacts, all of whom are currently well.

TOM HANSON: The unidentified woman visited China in December. But just a few days after she returned, she felt sick, alerted doctors of her symptoms and travel history and was rushed to a hospital. She reportedly did not take public transportation or attend any large gatherings after returning home.

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DR. ALLISON ARWADY: This is exactly what any potentially ill returning travel from Wuhan should do.

TOM HANSON: Doctors from coast to coast are on high alert. The virus has been reported in eleven countries from France to Australia to Singapore. And back stateside, airports in five major U.S. cities are screening passengers from the affected areas for symptoms.

WEIMAN FENG (Massachusetts Resident): Two days ago, I was panicked. I went to a drugstore, I got my, you know, face mask.

TOM HANSON: The spread of the virus is also spreading fear, with many stores across the country saying they're selling out of protective face masks. But Doctor Anthony Fauci with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease says while there is reason to be concerned, for now the risk to the general public remains low.

DR. ANTHONY FAUCI (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease Director): Just do general healthy measures. That's what you should be doing right now.

(End VT)

TOM HANSON: Now, the major concern here is this virus comes from the same family as other dangerous illnesses such as SARS and the bird flu. Meanwhile, a study published yesterday in the medical journal, The Lancet, suggests a person infected with coronavirus may be able to spread it even if they are not showing signs of the flu. And, Jeff, health officials say that the easiest way to prevent yourself and protect yourself from getting this is simply washing your hands.

JEFF GLOR: Exactly.

DANA JACOBSON: Same with the regular flu.

MICHELLE MILLER: Right.

DANA JACOBSON: Just precaution.

MICHELLE MILLER: And this is really doing a number on-- on tourism in China. Shanghai Disneyland shut down and parts of the Great Wall.

TOM HANSON: Well, yeah, and during such a busy time of year--

MICHELLE MILLER: Yeah.

TOM HANSON: --it's one of the heaviest traveled times of the year.

JEFF GLOR: Yeah.

MICHELLE MILLER: For the Lunar New Year.

JEFF GLOR: Yeah.

MICHELLE MILLER: Yeah.

JEFF GLOR: Tom, thank you very much.

In Eastern Turkey, search teams are looking in frigid weather for survivors trapped in the rubble of Friday's powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake and more than two hundred aftershocks. At least twenty-two people were killed and more than a thousand injured when buildings collapsed with the intense tremors about three hundred and forty miles east of the capital, Ankara. Hundreds of people are left homeless or with damaged homes. The quake reportedly was felt in parts of neighboring Syria, Iran and Lebanon.

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MICHELLE MILLER: The Pentagon now says thirty-four troops suffered traumatic brain injuries following Iran's missile attack on an airbase in Iraq earlier this month. President Trump initially said that no Americans were injured in that attack. Days later, he said he was told they suffered from headaches and that their injuries were not very serious. No one was killed in the attack which was in retaliation for U.S. drones strike in Baghdad that killed a top Iranian military leader.

DANA JACOBSON: For the third straight weekend, a wintry mix of heavy snow and freezing rain is threatening the Midwest. In Kansas, two men were killed Friday when they were struck by a snowplow while walking on a highway. In Missouri, several school districts and colleges canceled classes due to the bad weather. Meteorologist Jeff Berardelli has more on the nation's weather. Jeff, good morning.

JEFF BERARDELLI (CBS News Meteorologist and Climate Specialist): Good morning, Dana, and good morning, everybody. So this is the situation once again, mild air being pumped up the Eastern Seaboard with a dip in the west here, colder air to the west, mild air to the east. And in the words of the-- in the words of the very wise Jeff Glor, who I heard earlier today, say it's going to rain big time and for a long time here in New York City today. It's going to be kind of a miserable day with temperatures up to around fifty degrees. So, at least it's not cold. On the west side, we're talking snowflakes in Chicago, not much. And actually you can see all that heavy rain moving into New York City and eventually into Boston later today. That heavy rain moves in literally in the next hour in New York, moves through with heavy rain all day today in New York until the evening when it dies out. Boston, later today, tonight, that's when your rain moves in. On the western side, it's snow flurries, snow showers, nothing heavy, not a bad deal there. A pretty big storm is going to be slamming into the West Coast later today and tonight with some heavy rain from Eureka all the way up to Portland and also Seattle with a mix of rain and snow in the mountains. And this is the big story, we could see a pattern shift. Big ridge of high pressure pushing the jet stream up in the west, what goes up must come down. We're going to see cold air pour into the east next weekend and the following week with the possibility of storms or rumors of storms.

JEFF GLOR: To the extent of my weather knowledge.

JEFF BERARDELLI: I love that, Jeff, you summed it up perfectly.

JEFF GLOR: Big time, long time.

JEFF BERARDELLI: That's right.

JEFF GLOR: Jeff Berardelli, thank you.

DANA JACOBSON: Technical terms there for you?

JEFF GLOR: Thank you very much.

In Houston, federal investigators are expected to return to what's left of the massive warehouse explosion that killed two workers and injured twenty others. That blast on Friday leveled the valve in thermal-spray coating warehouse. It also damaged or destroyed nearby homes and buildings. Authorities said the two employees who were killed had arrived early and were working out in the company's gym at the time of the blast.

MICHELLE MILLER: Here in New York, officials at a museum in Chinatown are struggling with the potentially devastating loss on Lunar New Year. As many as eighty-five thousand artifacts may have been destroyed in the huge fire on Thursday. Flames ripped through the historic building, which had been transformed into a site for Chinese-American culture. It stored Chinese American newspapers, menus, traditional dresses, family albums, letters, postcards and documents dating back to the late 1800s.

NANCY YAO MAASBACH (Museum of Chinese in America President): This is not just a story of Chinatown, this is a story of Chinese immigration to this country. And what-- we've been striving to do is tell these stories because they're not in U.S. textbooks.

MICHELLE MILLER: The mayor has promised to rebuild the city-owned building.

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JEFF GLOR: But there's so much you can't get back.

MICHELLE MILLER: Yeah.

DANA JACOBSON: Yeah. Devastating loss for them.

It is about twenty-two minutes after the hour. Now, here's a look at the weather for your weekend.

(LOCAL WEATHER BREAK)

DANA JACOBSON: It may have been her last chance to have children. Why a court ruled this woman has to donate her frozen embryos to total strangers.

JEFF GLOR: Plus, it's a place few of us ever visit but we're already having an impact there. We'll see how an Antarctica and its wild creatures are feeling the effects of human activity and we'll hear what can be done to protect them.

MICHELLE MILLER: And from the bottom of the world to the tops of these towers, that's where these workers are headed to install the 5G cell phone service you may soon be using. We'll see who's answered that call and how they're training for the dangerous work ahead.

You're watching CBS THIS MORNING: SATURDAY.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

JEFF GLOR: Mars gets most of the attention, but some say our even closer neighbor is just as worthy of a visit, the push for the planet Venus.

DANA JACOBSON: Plus, a woman's influence on readers in the publishing world growing.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

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