

**From:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Sun, 23 Feb 2020 15:52:06 +0000  
**To:** Julia Belluz  
**Subject:** RE: Comment?

Julia:

The appearance of community transmissions in Japan, South Korea, Italy and Iran is troublesome. As I have repeatedly said over the past couple of weeks, if and when (looks more like when now) a number of other countries besides China have sustained human to human transmissions, then we are on the brink of a pandemic, if not already there. The reason to say this is that when several countries have widespread transmission, then spill-over to other countries is inevitable since one cannot shut out the rest of the world and so you can expect increasing world-wide transmissions. Hence, you will be experiencing a pandemic. We are not quite there yet, but we are getting disturbingly close.

I hope that this is helpful.

Best,  
Tony

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**From:** Julia Belluz <julia.belluz@vox.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 23, 2020 4:13 AM  
**To:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>  
**Cc:** julia.belluz@voxmedia.com; Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Comment?

Dear Dr. Fauci,

Just over a week ago we talked for this story about how the outbreak is likely larger than we know now:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.vox.com/platform/amp/2020/2/14/21134473/coronavirus-outbreak-singapore-us-symptoms-pandemic>

Given the developments in Singapore, Iran, Italy, and on the Diamond Princess cruise ship, I'm just wondering how your opinion about the possibility of containment and how fast we are approaching a pandemic has changed. Do these developments suggest we've entered a new phase in the outbreak?

If you have a few minutes to chat or email today, let me know. We'll be aiming to run a story on this today.

Thank you for considering.

Julia