



COVID-19 Response: Timeline of Events and Major Milestones

Timeline as of August 24, 2022

References below were pulled from a variety of online sources (federal documents, media reporting, legislative tracking, and health agency sites, etc.)

Late 2019 **December 12:** A cluster of patients in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China begins to experience shortness of breath and fever.

December 31: The World Health Organization (WHO) China Country Office is informed of a number of cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology (unknown cause) detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

Early 2020 **January 7:** CDC Establishes a 2019-nCoV Incident Management Structure.

January 17: CDC begins screening passengers on direct and connecting flights from Wuhan, China at San Francisco, New York City, and Los Angeles airports. CDC deploys a team to Washington state to assist with contact tracing efforts in response to the first reported case of 2019-nCoV in the U.S.

January 20: CDC confirms the first U.S. laboratory-confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in the U.S. in Washington State.

January 22: The WHO confirms human-to-human spread of the novel coronavirus.

January 30: The WHO declares the novel coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

January 31: U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services declares the SARS-CoV-2 virus a public health emergency and the White House 2019 Novel Coronavirus Task Force announces implementation of new travel policies effective February 2.

February 8: One of the first CDC test kits arrives at a public health laboratory in east Manhattan, New York City, New York. The laboratory reports that the test produces ‘untrustworthy results.’

February 9: CDC updates its evaluation and testing guidance for Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 to any patients with a severe respiratory illness even in the absence of travel history to affected areas or known exposure to another case to prepare for additional person-to-person spread.