**measures, contain, banned, originated,**

A newly identified coronavirus has been spreading in China, and has now reached several other countries. As the number of confirmed cases and deaths continue to rise, health officials are working on all fronts to learn more about the virus and put …measures…………………into place to …contain……….its spread. Here's a look at what you need to know about the virus, now called 2019-nCoV.

**Update on Saturday, Jan. 26:** A third case of the new virus has been confirmed in the United States, this one in Orange County, California. There are an additional 323 confirmed cases of the new coronavirus infection and 13 additional deaths in Wuhan, where the virus…originated……………….., [according to the Health Commission of Hubei Province](http://wjw.hubei.gov.cn/fbjd/dtyw/202001/t20200126_2015054.shtml). This news, along with the report of a virus-related death in Shanghai and another in the Henan Province, brings the total number of deaths linked to 2019-nCoV in China up to 56, [The New York Times reported](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/25/world/asia/china-coronavirus.html). As of Sunday (Jan. 26), the total number of confirmed case of the rise has reached 1,975, according to the Times. In addition to the cases reported in China, reports of the infection have been confirmed in Australia, France, the U.S. and seven countries in Asia. See below for up-to-date information on everything you need to know about the spreading coronavirus.

China has also temporarily …banned………………the sale of wildlife in markets, restaurants and online.

**What is a coronavirus?**

**respiratory, evolve, moderate, handful, tract**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause …respiratory………………..illnesses such as the common cold, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00426.asp). Most people get infected with coronaviruses at one point in their lives, but symptoms are typically mild to…moderate……………... In some cases, the viruses can cause lower-respiratory …tract………..illnesses such as pneumonia and bronchitis.

These viruses are common amongst animals worldwide, but only a …handful……….of them are known to affect humans. Rarely, coronaviruses can …evolve……..and spread from animals to humans. This is what happened with the coronaviruses known as the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-Cov), both of which are known to cause more severe symptoms.

**How many people have the new virus?**

**presumptive, reported, linked**

As of Jan. 26, there are nearly 1,975 confirmed cases and 56 deaths …linked………………. to the 2019-nCoV virus in China, according to [The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/25/world/asia/china-coronavirus.html). A third person in the U.S., this one in Orange County, California, tested positive for the new coronavirus; according to the county health department, the person had traveled from Wuhan and was in "good condition," the Times reported. The second person in the United States (a woman in Chicago) was confirmed to have the virus on Jan. 24, and [the first case was confirmed in a man in Washington state](https://www.livescience.com/new-coronavirus-first-case-us.html) on Jan. 21. Both of those individuals had also recently returned from Wuhan.

The first "…presumptive………………" case of the novel virus has been …reported………………in Canada in a man in his 50s who had returned from Wuhan to Toronto, the Times reported.

**How far has the virus spread?**

**pneumonia, hospitalized, among, investigating,**

The first cases of the …pneumonia……………….-like virus were reported in Wuhan, China, on Dec. 31, 2019. Since then, the virus has spread to various other countries, including Thailand, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States, Australia, France, Taiwan, …among……………..others. On Saturday (Jan. 25), a "presumptive" case of the virus was reported in Toronto in a man in his 50s who had visited Wuhan, while Portugal's health ministry says they are watching a patient in Lisbon for the virus; the person also had recently traveled to Wuhan, the Times said.

The [first U.S. case](https://www.livescience.com/new-coronavirus-first-case-us.html) was confirmed on Jan. 21 in a man in Washington state who had recently traveled to Wuhan. On Jan. 24, officials [confirmed a second case](https://www.livescience.com/second-us-person-tested-positive-new-coronavirus.html) in a woman from Chicago who had also recently traveled to the Chinese city. Both cases were…hospitalized………………., but doing well, officials said. A third case, a patient who had returned to Orange County, California, from Wuhan is also confirmed to be infected with the virus. That patient is said to be in "good condition," the Times reported.

The CDC is also …investigating………………….more than 60 people in 22 states for a possible infection with the new virus, officials said Friday (Jan. 24). Eleven of those people have so far tested negative for the virus.

**Where did the virus come from?**

**popped up, originated, contracted**

Since the virus first …originated……………..in Wuhan in people who had visited a local seafood and animal market, officials could only say it likely …popped up…………. from an animal to humans. In a new study, however, researchers sequenced the genes of 2019-nCoV (as the virus is now called), and then they compared it with the genetic sequences of more than 200 coronaviruses that infect various animals around the world. Their results, detailed in the [Journal of Medical Virology](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jmv.25682), suggested that [2019-nCoV likely …contracted………………….in snakes](https://www.livescience.com/new-coronavirus-origin-snakes.html).

As for what kind of snake, the scientists noted there are two snakes that are common to southeastern China where the outbreak originated: the many-banded krait (*Bungarus multicinctus*) and the Chinese cobra (*Naja atra*).

However, some experts have criticized the study, saying it's unclear if coronaviruses can indeed infect snakes.

**Can the virus spread between people?**

**transmission, fecal, particles,**

Yes, in limited cases, according to the CDC, but the primary mode of …transmission………………………seems to be from animal to human. In terms of how one would catch the virus, the CDC says that human coronaviruses are most commonly spread between an infected person and others via:

—the air (from viral …particles…………….from a cough or sneeze);

—close personal contact (touching or shaking hands);

—an object or surface with viral particles on it (then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands);

 —and rarely from…fecal………………. contamination.

**How would this virus cause a pandemic?**

**replicate, pandemic, passes**

In order for this virus, or any, to lead to a …pandemic……………. in humans, it needs to do three things: efficiently infect humans, …replicate……………….in humans and then spread *easily* among humans, [Live Science previously reported](https://www.livescience.com/64992-how-flu-becomes-pandemic.html). Right now, the CDC is saying this virus …passes…………………..between humans in a limited manner, but they are still investigating.

**How does the virus compare to SARS and MERS?**

**severity, preexisting, outbreak, transmitted,**

MERS and SARS have both been known to cause severe symptoms in people. It's unclear how the new coronavirus will compare in…severity…………….., as it has caused severe symptoms and death in some patients while causing only mild illness in others, [according to the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0121-novel-coronavirus-travel-case.html). All three of the coronaviruses can be …transmitted…………………… between humans through close contact.

MERS, which was transmitted from touching infected camels or consuming their meat or milk, was first reported in 2012 in Saudi Arabia and has mostly been contained in the Arabian Peninsula, [according to NPR](https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/01/22/798277557/how-does-wuhan-coronavirus-compare-to-mers-sars-and-the-common-cold). SARS was first reported in 2002 in southern China (no new cases have been reported since 2004) and is thought to have spread from bats that infected civets. The new coronavirus was likely transmitted from touching or eating an infected animal in Wuhan.

During the SARS …outbreak………………, the virus killed about 1 in 10 people who were infected. The death rate from 2019-nCoV isn't yet known, although most of the patients who have died from the infection have been older than 60 and have had …preexisting…………………. conditions. However, more recently, a young healthy man died in Wuhan, raising concern that the virus might be more dangerous than thought, [according to The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/coronavirus-china-live-updates/2020/01/24/4e678f9c-3e03-11ea-afe2-090eb37b60b1_story.html).

**What are the symptoms of the new coronavirus and how do you treat it?**

**absence, provider, preliminary, affected,**

Symptoms of the new coronavirus include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. These symptoms are similar to those caused by SARS, according to a recent study published in the journal [The Lancet](http://www.thelancet-press.com/embargo/coronavirus1.pdf).

Despite sharing some symptoms that were similar to SARS, there "are some important differences," such as the …absence……………..of upper respiratory tract symptoms like runny nose, sneezing and sore throat and intestinal symptoms like diarrhea, which …affected………………. 20% to 25% of SARS patients, lead author Bin Cao, from the China-Japan Friendship Hospital and the Capital Medical University, both in Beijing, said in a statement.

There are no specific treatments for coronavirus infections and most people will recover on their own, [according to the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/about/prevention.html). So treatment involves rest and medication to relieve symptoms. A humidifier or hot shower can help to relieve a sore throat and cough. If you are mildly sick, you should drink a lot of fluids and rest but if you are worried about your symptoms, you should see a healthcare…provider…………………., they wrote. (This is advice for all coronaviruses, not specifically aimed toward the new virus).

There is no vaccine for the new coronavirus but researchers at the U.S. National Institutes of Health confirmed they were in …preliminary………………..stages of developing one. In addition, the drug company Regeneron announced that it is in the early stages of developing a treatment for this virus, [according to NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/what-new-coronavirus-n1119081).

**What is being done to stop the spread of the coronavirus?**

**thermal , measures, pattern, screenings, ban, lockdown,**

Health officers screen arriving passengers from China with …thermal……………..scanners at Changi International airport in Singapore on Jan. 22, 2020, as authorities increased…pattern…………………. against the spread of the newfound coronavirus.  The Chinese government has stopped most of the travel to and from Wuhan as well as 12 other nearby cities, according to The [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/24/world/asia/china-coronavirus.html). This "…lockdown……………….." affects about 35 million people, the Times reported. On Sunday, Taiwan's government announced they would not allow in anyone from the Hubei Province, the Times reported.

Major airports in the U.S. are conducting …screening…………….to make sure incoming passengers aren't infected. However, U.S. officials said on Friday (Jan. 24) that they are currently reevaluating the effectiveness of this screening. In addition, as of Sunday (Jan. 26), the Chinese government had banned the sale of wildlife in markets, restaurants and online.

"The Chinese government’s announcement today to temporarily …ban……………….the sale of wildlife in markets, restaurants and over e-commerce needs to be permanent. We congratulate the government for taking this important first step," Christian Walzer, chief global veterinarian at for the Wildlife Conservation Society, said in a WCS statement.

"The banning of such sales will help end the possibility of future outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, such as the Wuhan coronavirus. We learned this lesson with the outbreak of another zoonotic disease, SARS, in 2002. The …measures………. will keep repeating itself until we ban, not only in China, but in other countries, the sale of wildlife, specifically for food and in food markets," Walzer added.

The CDC also recommends [avoiding non-essential travel to Wuhan](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-wuhan-china). On Jan. 23, the U.S. State Department ordered all non-emergency U.S. personnel and family to leave Wuhan, the department [said in a statement](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/china-travel-advisory.html).