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February 24 coronavirus news

By [Jessie Yeung](/profiles/jessie-yeung), [Jenni Marsh](/profiles/jenni-marsh-profile) and Tara John, CNN

10-13 minutes

3:45 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

Kuwait confirms 3 coronavirus cases

From CNN's Alla Eshchenko and Sara Mazloumsaki in Atlanta and Mostafa Salem in Abu Dhabi

Three people tested positive for coronavirus in Kuwait, after returning from the Iranian city of Mashhad, the country's health ministry said today.

The trio includes a 61-year-old Saudi citizen and a 53-year-old Kuwaiti national. The third person's nationality was undisclosed.

Kuwait evacuated 800 citizens from Iran on Sunday citing the coronavirus outbreak there, according to state news agency KUNA.

"(All of them) showed no symptoms of the disease," the health minister Abdullah Al-Sanad said, KUNA reported.

3:32 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

More than 230 new cases were confirmed in South

Korea today, raising national total to 833

From CNN's Sophie Jeong in Seoul



Workers spray disinfectant at a market in Seoul on Monday. Jung Yeon-Je/AFP/Getty Images

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced 231 new cases today, bringing the country's total to 833 in a massive jump.

161 cases were announced this morning, and another 70 in the afternoon.

Among the 70 cases, 41 are from the city of Daegu, and 12 are from North Gyeongsang Province -- two places where the outbreak has been concentrated. The other cases are spread out across Seoul, Busan, Daejeon, Ulsan, and Gyeonggi Province.

The total number of deaths related to the coronavirus is now at

seven, with the latest death happening yesterday.

About half of all cases nationwide are linked to a religious group in the south of the country.

3:30 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

Two Japanese health workers who went on board the Princess Diamond cruise ship have coronavirus

From CNN's Junko Ogura in Tokyo

Two more Japanese government health workers who went on the Princess Diamond during its 14-day quarantine have tested positive for novel coronavirus.

The Ministry of Health confirmed that a quarantine officer in his 50s and an administrative staffer in his 40s were hospitalized after they developed fevers.

In total, six of the ministry's staffers have tested positive for the virus after working aboard the ship.

2:50 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

Qatar Airways to quarantine passengers arriving from Iran and South Korea

Qatar Airways announced today it would ask all travelers arriving in Doha from Iran and South Korea to isolate themselves at home or in a quarantine facility for 14 days.

"Passengers arriving from those countries who are showing symptoms will be transferred to the Communicable Disease Centre at the Hamad Medical Corporation," said the airline in a

statement. "We thank our passengers for their cooperation in this matter."

Spike in cases: This move comes after both countries reported a spike in cases over the weekend. Iran now has 43 cases and eight deaths, while South Korea has 763 cases and seven deaths.

2:24 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

How the coronavirus went global

The novel coronavirus began in December in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, Hubei province. Now, it's reached more than 30 other countries and territories, and is spreading in Europe and the Middle East. **Take a look at how we got here:**

- **December 8:** First patient develops symptoms of coronavirus in Wuhan.
- **December 31:** Earliest cases of virus reported to World Health Organization (WHO).
- **January 1:** Seafood and wildlife market in Wuhan, where the outbreak is believed to have originated, is closed for disinfection.
- **January 7:** Chinese authorities confirm they have identified the virus as a novel coronavirus.
- **January 9:** First person dies of the virus, though his death wasn't announced until January 11.
- **January 13:** Thailand [reports their first case](#) -- a Chinese national who had arrived from Wuhan.
- **January 16:** Japan confirms its first case.
- **January 21:** The US confirms its first case.

- **January 23:** Wuhan is placed on lockdown and Lunar New Year celebrations are canceled in major Chinese cities. Around 60 million people are affected by lockdowns and travel restrictions in other parts of China. WHO says virus is not yet a public health emergency of international concern
- **January 28:** Death toll tops 100. The number of confirmed cases in mainland China overtakes the deadly 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak.
- **January 30:** WHO declares a public health emergency of international concern.
- **February 2:** A Chinese man dies in the Philippines -- [the first coronavirus death outside China.](#)
- **February 4:** The Diamond Princess cruise ship is docked under quarantine in Japan's Yokohama Bay with more than 3,700 people on board.
- **February 6:** Death toll tops 500 globally.
- **February 7:** Chinese whistleblower doctor Li Wenliang, who was targeted by Wuhan police, dies of the coronavirus. Chinese social media is flooded with grief, anger, and calls for freedom of speech.
- **February 8:** The US Embassy in Beijing confirms that a [US national died in Wuhan on February 6](#), marking the first confirmed death of a non-Chinese national.
- **February 11:** The death toll tops 1,000 globally. [The WHO names the coronavirus Covid-19.](#)
- **February 15:** The first coronavirus death in Europe is confirmed.
- **February 17:** American passengers on the Diamond Princess are

evacuated out of Japan.

- **February 23:** Cases in South Korea surged past 600 after several hundred new infections were reported in 48 hours, with more than half the cases linked to a [branch of a religious group](#). Italy also sees a spike -- cases rise from 3 to 152 over the same weekend.

2:10 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

Drones, disinfecting robots, supercomputers: The coronavirus outbreak is a test for China's tech industry

From CNN's Michelle Toh and Serenitie Wang



A local resident using a drone spraying disinfectant at a village in China's central Henan province in January.

China has spent decades [nurturing its tech sector](#). Now, faced with a massive [public health crisis](#), Beijing is pushing its tech companies to join the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Tech giants have responded by deploying autonomous vehicles to

bring supplies to medical workers, fitting drones with thermal cameras to improve detection of the virus and lending their computing power to help develop a vaccine.

Robots waiters: The food delivery giant Meituan Dianping introduced robots last week in some of its partners' restaurants in Beijing to help bring food from kitchens to delivery workers, and to customers waiting for takeout.

Robot deliverymen: Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com, meanwhile, enlisted self-driving robots to bring goods to medical workers in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

Cutting humans out of the equation has helped protect customers and employees, said Qi Kong, head of autonomous driving at JD Logistics.

"As we learned of the situation in Wuhan, we started to pivot our resources there," Qi told CNN Business. "Time has been really tight. It only took us four days to make sure our algorithm was ready to go, from simulation to practice."

And a startup, Shanghai TMIRob, is sending dozens of robots inside hospitals throughout Wuhan, [according to Chinese state media](#). There, they are spraying disinfectant in isolation wards, intensive care units and operating rooms.

[**Read more here**](#) about the tech being used to fight coronavirus.

1:59 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

WHO: The "window of opportunity" to contain the virus in China is closing

From CNN's James Griffiths

On Sunday, World Health Organization (WHO) director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that the "window of opportunity is narrowing" to contain the worst of the coronavirus outbreak to mainland China.

"Although the total number of cases outside China remains relatively small, we are concerned about the number of cases with no clear epidemiological link, such as travel history to China or contact with a confirmed case," he said.

This weekend's increase in cases in Iran, South Korea and Italy "is also a matter of concern," Tedros added.



Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed Al-Jadaan at the G20 summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh on February 23. FAYEZ NURELDINE/AFP/Getty Images

G20 concerns: Members of the G20, meeting in Saudi Arabia, warned that the coronavirus poses the greatest risk to the global

economy.

The conference's final document concluded the member countries would "enhance global risk monitoring, including of the recent outbreak of Covid-19."

"We all agreed that all countries and states will be ready to intervene as needed to face these risks and it'll be a multilateral intervention including the WHO to monitor these risks and use relevant policies as needed," said Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Al Jadaan, the host of the G20 meeting.

[**Read more here.**](#)

1:59 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

15 countries have travel restrictions on South Korea

By CNN's Sophie Jeong



A flight carrying passengers from South Korea arrives at Ben Gurion International Airport in Israel on February 22. Ahmad

Gharabli/AFP/Getty Images

Six countries have banned the entry of foreigners who have visited South Korea in the last 14 days, and nine others are tightening travel restrictions for the country.

The restrictions come after a surge in cases in South Korea this past week.

Israel, Bahrain, and Jordan have banned the entry of foreigners who have visited South Korea in the past 14 days.

Kiribati and Samoa require those traveling from South Korea to spend 14 days in a country that has no reported cases of the novel coronavirus. American Samoa requires those from South Korea entering through Hawaii to spend 14 days in Hawaii.

Brunei, Britain, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Macao, Oman, Ethiopia, Uganda and Qatar have heightened entry procedures, such as self-quarantine if they show symptoms or conducting a health check.

1:34 a.m. ET, February 24, 2020

After a month on lockdown, Wuhan allows some healthy residents leave the city





A group of people leave a hospital in Wuhan on Saturday after recovering from coronavirus. STR/AFP/Getty Images

Some healthy residents will gradually be allowed to leave the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus outbreak began, officials said.

Those who are stranded in Wuhan, which has been under strict lockdown since January 23, will be able to leave if they have no symptoms of fever, cough, or asthma, according to a statement from the municipal government. However, they will need to exit at different times, and undertake 14 days of health monitoring and report to local health authorities once they arrive at their destination.

Those under quarantine must remain.

Wuhan residents stranded in other parts of the country may also enter the city after filing an application to the epidemic control department.

The new policies will be implemented immediately.