



WHO Response based on official newsroom/press release



Behind the Scenes?



China's Response to the Novel Coronavirus

NOVEMBER 2019

POSSIBLE TRANSMISSION OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS TO HUMANS

27 DEC 2019

Wuhan doctors [inform](#) health officials that a new coronavirus is causing illness

16 DEC 2019

Patient with infected lungs admitted into Wuhan Hospital where it is [later claimed](#) he worked at a wet market

10 DEC 2019

One of the earliest [known](#) Novel Coronavirus patients, Wei Guixian, starts feeling ill

30 DEC 2019

Ai Fen, director at Wuhan Central Hospital, is reprimanded for posting information about the [new virus](#) on WeChat

Wuhan doctor, Li Wenliang, is called in for questioning by officials for sharing information about the new [SARS-like virus](#) on Wechat

Wuhan health [Commission notifies](#) hospitals of a 'pneumonia of unclear cause' and orders them to report any related information

THE REST OF THE WORLD FIRST HEARS OF THE 'MYSTERIOUS PNEUMONIA'

31 DEC 2019

Wuhan health officials [confirm](#) 27 cases of illness and close a market they think is related to the virus' spread

[China tells](#) the WHO's China office about cases of an 'unknown illness'

Health officials from Taiwan [alert](#) the WHO's International Health Regulation (IHR) and Chinese Health Authorities about the signs of human-to-human transmission of Covid19 in Mainland China

Taiwan's [concerns](#) were ignored by IHR/WHO and not passed on to other member countries

Pneumonia of 'unknown cause' reported to WHO China Office

POST WHO BEING INFORMED

01 JAN 2020

Wuhan Public Security [Bureau questions](#) eight doctors who had posted information about the outbreak on WeChat

The Hubei Provincial Health [Commission orders](#) labs, which had already determined that the novel virus was similar to SARS, to stop testing samples and to destroy existing samples

02 JAN 2020

China [maps](#) genome sequencing of novel coronavirus

09 JAN 2020

[China reports first death](#) related to the Novel Coronavirus

05 JAN 2020

WHO reports on pneumonia of 'unknown cause' in China

04 JAN 2020

WHO responds to a cluster of cases in Wuhan

10 JAN 2020

WHO issues its first guidance and travel advisory on the Novel Coronavirus

12 JAN 2020

China makes genome sequencing of Novel Coronavirus publicly available

13 JAN 2020

First case of Novel Coronavirus outside of China confirmed

"WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers."
"WHO advises against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China based on the information currently available on this event."

20 JAN 2020

First case reported in South Korea

14 JAN 2020

WHO [declares](#) no Human-to-Human transmission of Covid19

Preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel #coronavirus (2019-nCoV) identified in #Wuhan, #China

21 JAN 2020

WHO delegation makes field visit to Wuhan, China

22 JAN 2020

WHO [blocks Taiwan from attending emergency](#) meeting on the Novel Coronavirus at Beijing's direction

WHO released a press statement but **no report** of the visit

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirms the first Novel Coronavirus case in the United States

The delegation commended the commitment and capacity demonstrated by national, provincial, and Wuhan authorities and by hundreds of local health care workers and public health specialists working to respond to the 2019-nCoV outbreak

24 JAN 2020

China [extends the lockdown](#) to cover 36 million people and starts to rapidly build a new hospital in Wuhan. From this point, very strict measures continue to be implemented around the country to contain the epidemic

23 JAN 2020

First meeting of Emergency Committee regarding the Novel Coronavirus outbreak

23 JAN 2020

WHO Committee members consider it still too early to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

23 JAN 2020

Wuhan and surrounding municipalities are put under lockdown

23 JAN 2020

Approximately **5 million** people are allowed to leave the city without being screened for Covid19 infection

25 JAN 2020

Launch of free online introductory course on the Novel Coronavirus

28 JAN 2020

WHO and Chinese leaders meet in Beijing to discuss Novel Coronavirus outbreak

30 JAN 2020

Public Health Emergency of International Concern declared

China celebrates Lunar New Year. **Hundreds of millions** of people visit relatives around the country and the globe.

[Estimates](#) suggest that top Covid19 hotspots such as Spain, Japan, Italy, Germany, etc saw a surge of more than 20% in travellers from China in Jan 2020 as compared to the previous year, indicating possible movement of the virus

30 JAN 2020

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praises China, "We appreciate the seriousness with which China is taking this outbreak, especially the commitment from top leadership, and the transparency they have demonstrated"

30 JAN 2020

WHO Committee notes that early detection, isolation and treatment of cases, contact tracing, and social distancing measures – in line with the level of risk – can all work to interrupt the Novel Coronavirus spread

11 FEB 2020

Novel Coronavirus disease named Covid19

05 FEB 2020

Global community asks for US\$675 million to help protect vulnerable countries from outbreak

03 FEB 2020

In [response](#) to US' decision to restrict trade and travel to USA, Dr. Tedros says, "No international trade and travel restrictions necessary"

12 FEB 2020

Research and innovation forums set priorities for Covid19 research

15 FEB 2020

WHO Director-General Research for solidarity at Munich Security Conference

UN activates WHO-led Crisis Management Team

15 FEB 2020

Dr. Tedros: We are encouraged that the steps China has taken to contain the outbreak at its source appear to have bought the world time, even though those steps have come at greater cost to China itself. But it's slowing the spread to the rest of the world. We're encouraged that outside China, we have not yet seen widespread community transmission

18 FEB 2020

WHO and countries around the world launch massive preparations for looming crisis

17 FEB 2020

WHO issues guidance on mass gatherings and taking care of ill travellers

16 FEB 2020

WHO investigative team led by Dr. Bruce Aylward reaches China

WHO ships supplies of personal protective equipment to 21 countries

21 FEB 2020

WHO Director-General warns that the window of opportunity is "narrowing"

22 FEB 2020

WHO leaders address AU and Africa CDC Emergency Meeting

24 FEB 2020

UN Secretary-General meets top WHO officials

WHO-led team of experts travels to Italy

02 MAR 2020

Mission of WHO experts arrives in Iran

29 FEB 2020

Updated Travel Recommendations by WHO in response to Covid19

25 FEB 2020

WHO-China joint mission shares findings and recommendations

WHO advises **'against'** travel and trade restrictions to countries facing Covid19 outbreak and recommends that sick/old persons delay travel

Dr. Bruce Aylward tells FT about "back and forth" with Chinese counterparts over the contents of the report - not allowed to use words like resurgence, dangerous pathogen, etc

04 MAR 2020

WHO [praises China for the wealth of knowledge generated about the new disease in just eight weeks](#)

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead for Covid19, calls it "unprecedented"

06 MAR 2020

WHO publishes draft R&D blueprint for Covid19

08 MAR 2020

The [Government of China](#) decides to donate US\$20 million to the World Health Organization

07 MAR 2020: MARKING 100,000 COVID19 CASES

10 MAR 2020

WHO issues guidance for schools with UNICEF and IFRC

11 MAR 2020

WHO FINALLY DECLARES COVID19 AS A GLOBAL PANDEMIC