

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 37

Data as reported by 10AM CET 26 February 2020*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Four new Member States (Algeria, Austria, Croatia, and Switzerland) reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Algeria is the first Member State of the AFRO Region to report a case of COVID-19.
- For the first time, since the onset of symptoms of the first identified case of COVID-19 on 8 December 2019¹, there have been more new cases reported from countries outside of China than from China.
- The WHO Director-General provided opening remarks at the weekly Member State briefing on COVID-19 regarding ongoing and future WHO missions along with priorities for control of the outbreak. For details, please go to this [webpage](#).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

81 109 confirmed (871 new)

China

78 191 confirmed (412 new)
2718 deaths (52 new)

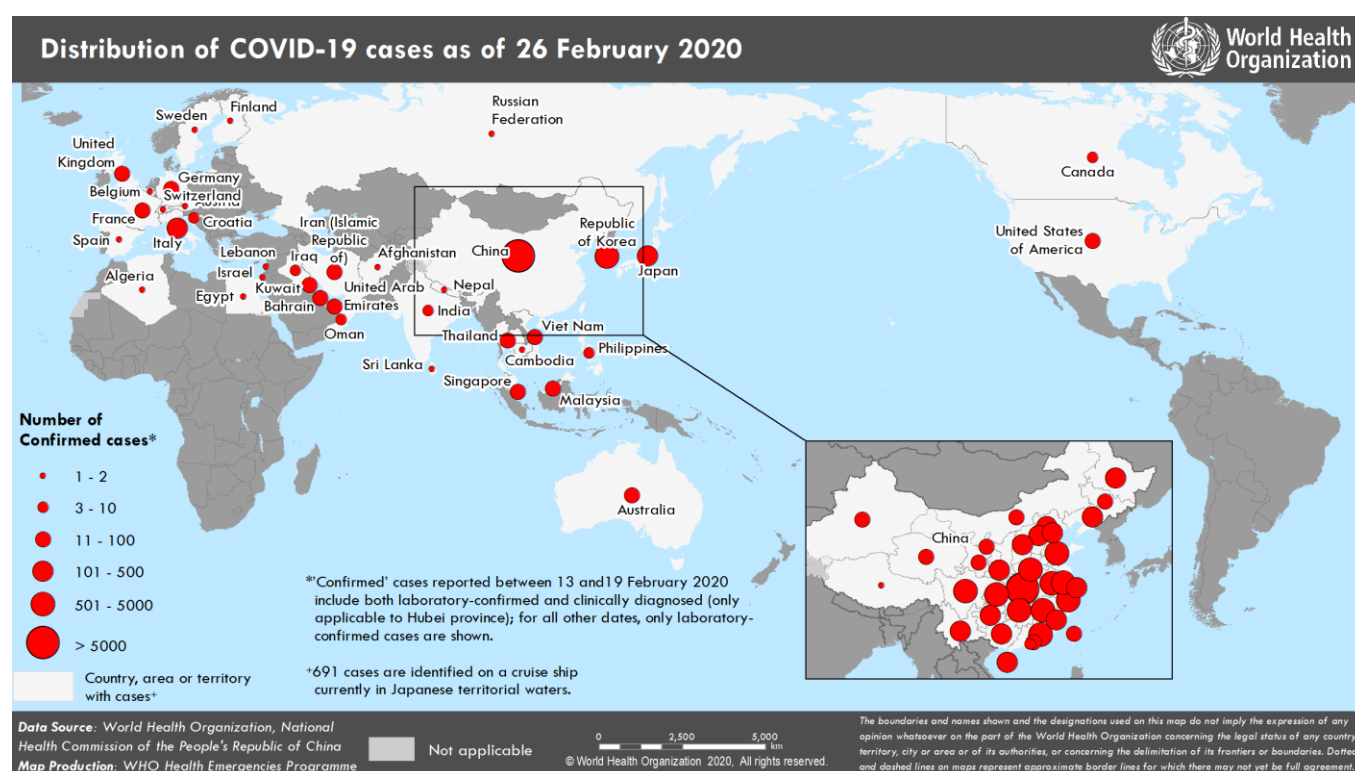
Outside of China

2918 confirmed (459 new)
37 countries (4 new)
44 deaths (10 new)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China	Very High
Regional Level	High
Global Level	High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 26 February 2020



¹Novel, C.P.E.R.E., 2020. The epidemiological characteristics of an outbreak of 2019 novel coronavirus diseases (COVID-19) in China. *Zhonghua liu xing bing xue za zhi= Zhonghua liuxingbingxue zazhi*, 41(2), p.145.

SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 acute respiratory disease reported by provinces, regions and cities in China, 26 February 2020

Province/ Region/ City	Population (10,000s)	Daily			Cumulative	
		Confirmed cases	Suspected cases	Deaths	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Hubei	5917	401	311	52	65187	2615
Guangdong	11346	0	0	0	1347	7
Henan	9605	0	1	0	1271	19
Zhejiang	5737	0	2	0	1205	1
Hunan	6899	0	1	0	1016	4
Anhui	6324	0	0	0	989	6
Jiangxi	4648	0	0	0	934	1
Shandong	10047	1	1	0	756	6
Jiangsu	8051	0	0	0	631	0
Chongqing	3102	0	9	0	576	6
Sichuan	8341	2	7	0	531	3
Heilongjiang	3773	0	0	0	480	12
Beijing	2154	0	21	0	400	4
Shanghai	2424	1	46	0	336	3
Hebei	7556	1	0	0	312	6
Fujian	3941	0	0	0	294	1
Guangxi	4926	0	2	0	252	2
Shaanxi	3864	0	0	0	245	1
Yunnan	4830	0	7	0	174	2
Hainan	934	0	6	0	168	5
Guizhou	3600	0	0	0	146	2
Tianjin	1560	0	14	0	135	3
Shanxi	3718	0	1	0	133	0
Liaoning	4359	0	6	0	121	1
Jilin	2704	0	2	0	93	1
Gansu	2637	0	0	0	91	2
Hong Kong SAR	745	4	0	0	85	2
Xinjiang	2487	0	0	0	76	2
Inner Mongolia	2534	0	0	0	75	0
Ningxia	688	0	2	0	71	0
Taipei and environs	2359	2	0	0	32	1
Qinghai	603	0	0	0	18	0
Macao SAR	66	0	0	0	10	0
Xizang	344	0	0	0	1	0
Total	142823	412	439	52	78191	2718

Table 2. Countries, territories or areas outside China with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 26 February 2020

Country/Territory/Area	Confirmed* cases (new)	Likely place of exposure†			Total cases with site of transmission under investigation (new)	Total deaths (new)
		China (new)	Outside reporting country and outside China (new)	In reporting country (new)		
Western Pacific Region						
Republic of Korea	1261 (284)	13 (0)	4 (0)	605 (0)	639 (284)	12 (2)
Japan	164 (7)	28 (0)	8 (1)	116 (6)	12 (0)	1 (0)
Singapore	91 (1)	24 (0)	0 (0)	67 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Australia	23 (1)	12 (0)	8 (1)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Malaysia	22 (0)	18 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Viet Nam	16 (0)	8 (0)	0 (0)	8 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Philippines	3 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Cambodia	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
South-East Asia Region						
Thailand	40 (3)	23 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)	10 (3)	0 (0)
India	3 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Nepal	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sri Lanka	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	53 (0)	14 (0)	36 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Canada	10 (0)	7 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
European Region						
Italy	322 (93)	3 (0)	0 (0)	121 (0)	198 (93)	11 (5)
Germany	18 (2)	2 (0)	2 (2)	14 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
The United Kingdom	13 (0)	2 (0)	10 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
France	12 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Austria	2 (2)	0 (0)	2 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Croatia	2 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Israel	2 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Russian Federation	2 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Spain	2 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Belgium	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Finland	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sweden	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Switzerland	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	95 (34)	0 (0)	0 (0)	28 (0)	67 (34)	15 (3)
Bahrain	26 (18)	0 (0)	26 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
United Arab Emirates	13 (0)	6 (0)	2 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kuwait	12 (4)	0 (0)	12 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Iraq	5 (4)	0 (0)	5 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Oman	4 (2)	0 (0)	4 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Afghanistan	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Egypt	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lebanon	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
African Region						
Algeria	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Subtotal for all regions	2227 (459)	179 (0)	131 (37)	988 (7)	929 (415)	41 (10)
International conveyance‡ (Diamond Princess)	691 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	691 (0)	3 (0)
Grand total§	2918 (459)	179 (0)	131 (37)	988 (7)	929 (415)	44 (10)

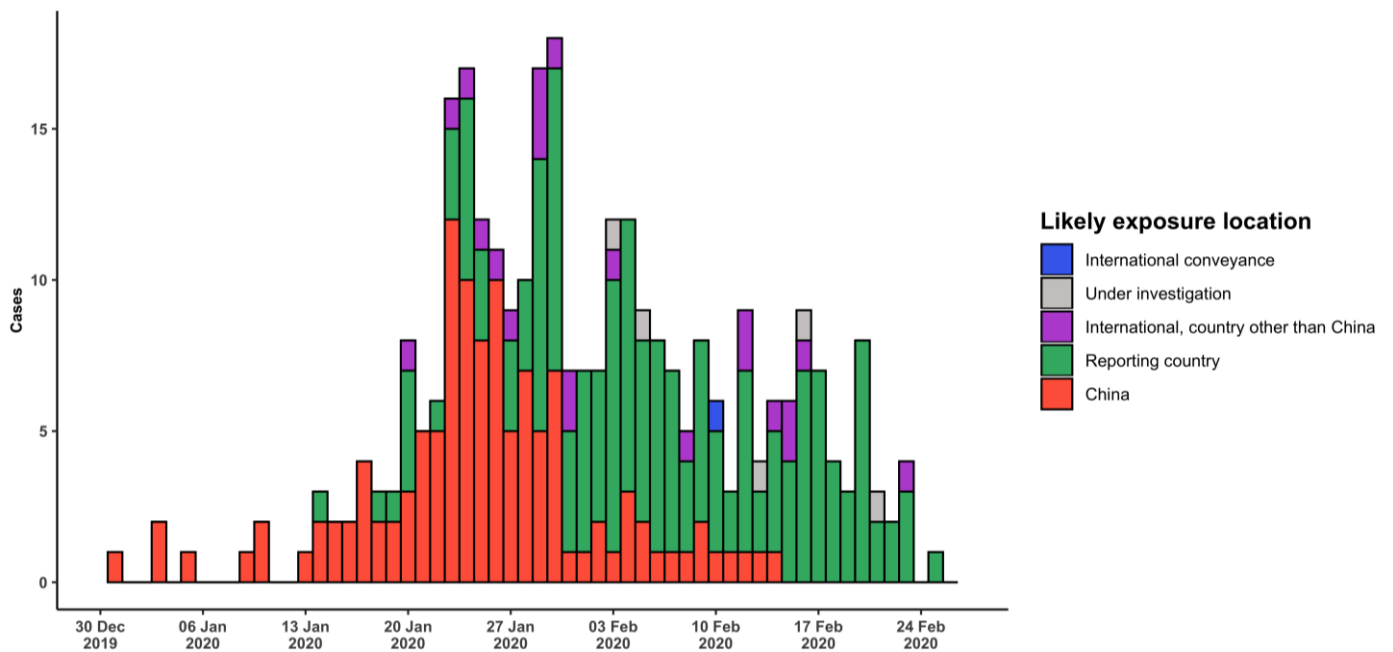
*Case classifications are based on [WHO case definitions](#) for COVID-19.

†Location of transmission is classified based on WHO analysis of available official data and may be subject to reclassification as additional data become available.

‡Cases identified on a cruise ship currently in Japanese territorial waters.

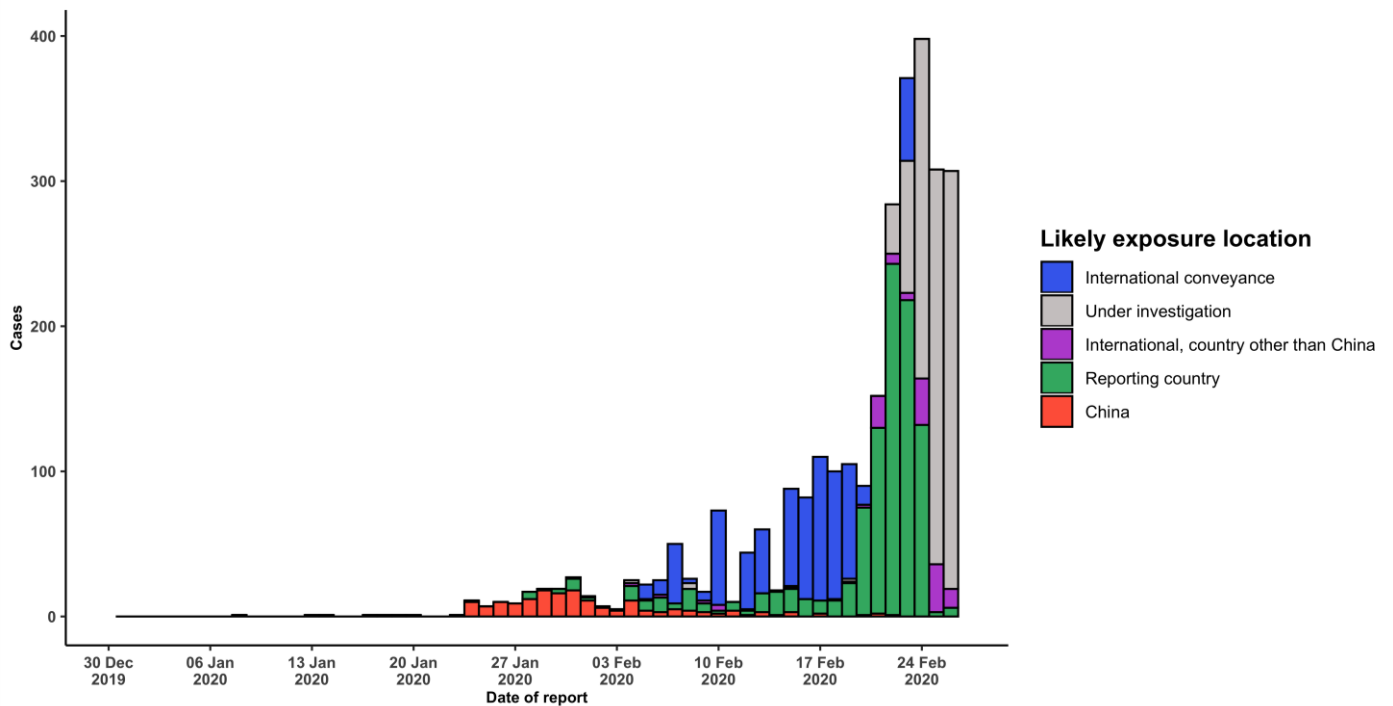
§217 female/294 male/2407 unknown. 22 healthcare workers (4 female/8 male/ 10 unknown).

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases (n=312) identified outside of China, by date of onset of symptoms and likely exposure location, 26 February 2020



Note for figure 2: Of the 2918 cases reported outside China, 86 were detected while apparently asymptomatic. For the remaining 2832 cases, information on date of onset is available only for the 312 cases presented in the epidemiologic curve.

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases (n=2918) identified outside of China, by date of report and likely exposure location, 26 February 2020



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHO's strategic objectives for this response are to:

- Limit human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events, and preventing further international spread from China*;
- Identify, isolate and care for patients early, including providing optimized care for infected patients;
- Identify and reduce transmission from the animal source;
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission and infection, treatment options, and accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines;
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation;
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

*This can be achieved through a combination of public health measures, such as rapid identification, diagnosis and management of the cases, identification and follow up of the contacts, infection prevention and control in health care settings, implementation of health measures for travelers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- To view all technical guidance documents regarding COVID-19, please go to [this webpage](#).
- WHO is working closely with International Air Transport Association (IATA) and have jointly developed a guidance document to provide advice to cabin crew and airport workers, based on country queries. The guidance can be found on the [IATA webpage](#).
- WHO has developed a protocol for the investigation of early cases (the "[First Few X \(FFX\) Cases and contact investigation protocol for 2019-novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) infection](#)"). The protocol is designed to gain an early understanding of the key clinical, epidemiological and virological characteristics of the first cases of COVID-19 infection detected in any individual country, to inform the development and updating of public health guidance to manage cases and reduce potential spread and impact of infection.
- WHO has been in regular and direct contact with Member States where cases have been reported. WHO is also informing other countries about the situation and providing support as requested.
- WHO has developed interim guidance for [laboratory diagnosis, advice on the use of masks during home care and in health care settings in the context of the novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) outbreak, clinical management, infection prevention and control in health care settings, home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus, risk communication and community engagement](#) and [Global Surveillance for human infection with novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#).
- WHO has prepared [disease commodity package](#) that includes an essential list of biomedical equipment, medicines and supplies necessary to care for patients with 2019-nCoV.
- WHO has provided recommendations to reduce risk of [transmission from animals to humans](#).
- WHO has published an [updated advice for international traffic in relation to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV](#).
- WHO has activated of R&D blueprint to accelerate diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.
- WHO has developed online courses on the following topics: [A general introduction to emerging respiratory viruses](#), including novel coronaviruses (available in [French](#), [Chinese](#), and [Spanish](#)); [Critical Care of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections](#); and [Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases - ePROTECT](#)
- WHO is providing guidance on early investigations, which are critical to carry out early in an outbreak of a new virus. The data collected from the protocols can be used to refine recommendations for surveillance and case

definitions, to characterize the key epidemiological transmission features of COVID-19, help understand spread, severity, spectrum of disease, impact on the community and to inform operational models for implementation of countermeasures such as case isolation, contact tracing and isolation. Several protocols are available here:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>

- WHO is working with its networks of researchers and other experts to coordinate global work on surveillance, epidemiology, modelling, diagnostics, clinical care and treatment, and other ways to identify, manage the disease and limit onward transmission. WHO has issued interim guidance for countries, which are updated regularly.
- WHO is working with global expert networks and partnerships for laboratory, infection prevention and control, clinical management and mathematical modelling.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

If you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading, or if you have not travelled from one of those areas or have not been in close contact with someone who has and is feeling unwell, your chances of getting it are currently low. However, it's understandable that you may feel stressed and anxious about the situation. It's a good idea to get the facts to help you accurately determine your risks so that you can take reasonable precautions. (See [Frequently Asked Questions](#)) Your healthcare provider, your national public health authority and your employer are all potential sources of accurate information on COVID-19 and whether it is in your area. It is important to be informed of the situation where you live and take appropriate measures to protect yourself. (See [Protection measures for everyone](#)).

If you are in an area where there is an outbreak of COVID-19 you need to take the risk of infection seriously. Follow the advice issued by national and local health authorities. Although for most people COVID-19 causes only mild illness, it can make some people very ill. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. Older people, and those with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes) appear to be more vulnerable. (See [Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited \(past 14 days\) areas where COVID-19 is spreading](#)).