



30th Anniversary

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Coronavirus Outbreak

The novel coronavirus pandemic is not only shaking China, but the entire world as the number of cases reported continues to increase. Assist America has gathered the latest updates and travel advice about the outbreak and its impact on international travel.

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses found in both animals and humans. Some infect people and are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and the ongoing novel coronavirus referred to as COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV.

This novel coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The new coronavirus had not previously detected before the outbreak was reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019.

How is the virus transmitted?

Much remains unknown about the COVID-19. Current knowledge is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses. Most often, coronaviruses are spread from person-to-person in situations of close contact (about 6 feet/2 meters).

The spread is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in or near the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It is currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

Who should be concerned about COVID-2019?

People currently in China should apply extreme caution and avoid crowds, public places and all contact with wildlife. People with pre-existing respiratory and cardiopulmonary diseases, weakened immune systems, infants and the elderly are more at risk of experiencing severe symptoms which can result in death.

Coronavirus as of Feb. 17th

• Number of Cases:

- Mainland China: 70,554
- Worldwide: 1,346

• Total Deaths

- Mainland China: 1770
- Worldwide: 5

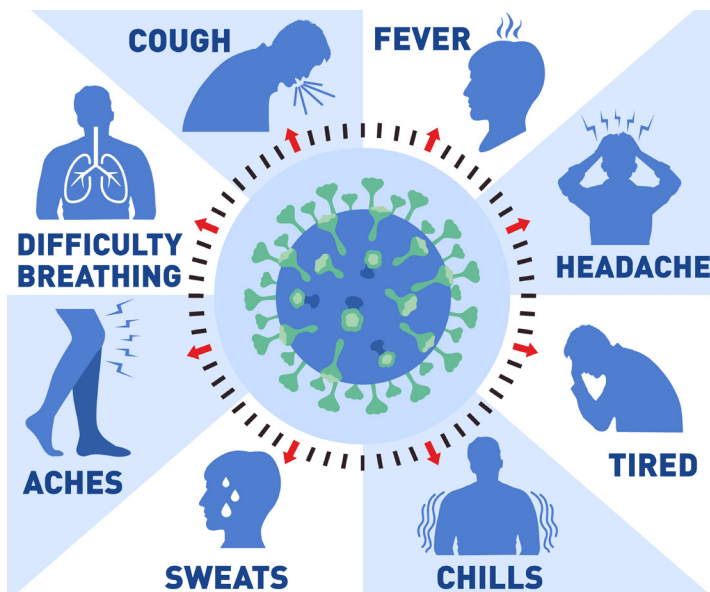
If you believe you are infected:

- Isolate yourself from others
- Use medical face masks
- Get tested to confirm infection
- Seek medical help if you experience severe symptoms



What are the symptoms and treatment?

Symptoms of the virus are closely related to those of the common cold with mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses and a general feeling of being unwell. Common signs of infection include:



In more severe cases, an infection can cause lower-respiratory tract illnesses such as pneumonia or bronchitis, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19 infection. People infected with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include the support of vital organ functions.

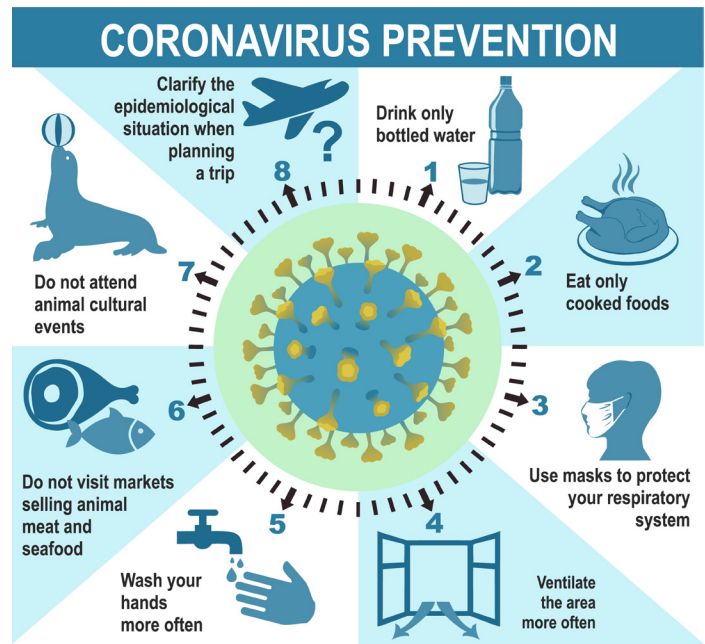
Can COVID-19 be prevented?

There is currently no vaccine or preventive treatment against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself from contamination is to avoid exposure to the virus. To do so, when traveling to at-risk areas:

- Maintain at least 3 feet (about 1 meter) between you and other people, particularly those who show cold-like symptoms such as sneezing, coughing and congestion.
- Wash your hands carefully with soap and water or an

alcohol-based sanitizer.

- Cover your mouth and nose with your arm or a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Discard the tissue immediately into a closed bin and wash hands.
- Avoid touching your mouth and eyes.
- Avoid consumption and handling of raw or undercooked animal products



What do I do if I get ill?

If you develop mild symptoms:

- Isolate yourself from others at home and use a separate bathroom if available.
- Put on a medical mask and practice good sneeze/cough and hand hygiene
- Call a doctor or hospital and tell them your recent travel or close contact history

If you have serious symptoms such as difficulty breathing, call the emergency dispatch number for immediate medical attention and go to the nearest emergency room.

A new infection has been detected in Wuhan, China

(Novel Coronavirus)

If you have been to Wuhan, China, in the last 14 days and develop ANY of these symptoms, contact a healthcare professional

Any of



If you develop symptoms within 14 days of leaving China, contact a healthcare professional for free advice and treatment, by calling NHS 111 or your GP, and tell them that you have travelled to Wuhan.

If you are currently experiencing symptoms in the airport, please contact

020 8745 7209



Sources:

For more information regarding COVID-19, visit:

- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- [Coronavirus Global Cases](#)

When should isolation be considered?

To help limit the spread of coronavirus, you should isolate yourself in the following circumstances:

- If you have traveled to Hubei Province – where the virus started – within the past 14 days, you must isolate yourself for 14 days after leaving the Province.
- If you have left or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February 2020, you must isolate yourself for 14 days after leaving mainland China.
- If you have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, you must isolate yourself for 14 days after your last contact with the confirmed case.

If you fall under one of these scenarios, you will need to isolate yourself at your house or in your hotel room for 14 days – the virus' incubation period. If you must leave home, such as to seek medical care, apply extreme caution and wear a face mask

Can I still travel internationally?

As of now, ongoing travel restrictions are only directed to China. However, some international travelers might be impacted because their original plans included a connection or layover in China. In these situations, airlines have either rerouted their flight to another connecting airport or canceled the flight. If you have a trip to Asia coming up, you might be eligible to reschedule or cancel it without penalties or fees. Travelers should check with their airline, hotel, or cruise line.

All nonessential travel to China, however, should be avoided. Most governments around the globe have issued a travel ban and/or high-level advisory, asking their residents not to travel to China until the outbreak is under control.

How is COVID-19 impacting travel?

This novel coronavirus has impacted international travels immensely, particularly the air travel industry. In the wake of the outbreak, most airlines with routes to China have reduced or suspended their flights over the fear of the virus spreading and the reduced demand for travel to and from the region.

More than 40 airlines have modified or suspended their flights to China, including:

- **American Airlines** (until April 24)
- **Air Canada** (until March 27)
- **Air China** (until March 18)

- **Air France** (until end of March)
- **Air New Zealand** (until March 29)
- **Air Seoul** (until further notice)
- **Air Tanzania** (until further notice)
- **Air Mauritius** (until further notice)
- **ANA Holdings** (until further notice)
- **Austrian Airlines** (until end of February)
- **British Airways** (until March 31)
- **Cathay Pacific Airways** (until further notice)
- **Delta Airlines** (until April 30)
- **Egyptair** (until further notice)
- **Emirates** (until further notice)
- **Etihad** (until further notice)
- **El Al Israel Airlines** (Mainland China - March 25 / Hong Kong flights until March 20)
- **Hainan Airlines** (until March 27)
- **Finnair** (until March 28)
- **Iberia Airlines** (until April 30)
- **JejuAir Co Ltd** (From March 1 until further notice)
- **Kenya Airways** (until further notice)
- **KLM** (until March 15)
- **Korean Air Lines Co.** (until February 22)
- **Lion Air** (until end of February)
- **LOT** (until March 28)
- **Lufthansa** (until March 28)
- **Oman and Saudia** (until further notice)
- **Qatar Airways** (until further notice)
- **Rwandair** (until further notice)
- **Nordic Airline SAS** (until March 29)
- **Philippine Airlines** (until further notice)
- **Qantas Airways** (until March 29)
- **Royal Air Maroc** (until February 29)
- **All Russian airlines**, with the exception of national airline Aeroflot and Ikar (until further notice)
- **Scot** (until further notice)
- **Singapore Airlines** (until further notice)
- **United Airlines** (until April 23)
- **Vietjet and Vietnam Airlines** (until April 30)
- **Virgin Atlantic** (until March 28)
- **Virgin Australia** (from March 2 until further notice)

Travelers should be prepared for further travel restrictions with little to no advance notice. Contact your airline carrier for more details on the specific routes impacted and the dates until which flights are suspended. Most airlines are offering passengers to postpone or cancel their trip for free.

Latest Updates (as of Feb. 17th)

Couple diagnosed with COVID-19 flew on Delta and Hawaiian Airlines early February

Delta and Hawaiian Airlines both confirmed a Japanese couple traveled on their flights to and around Hawaii earlier this month. Passengers on Delta Flight 611 on February 6 and Hawaiian Airlines flight HA265 on February 3, as well as travelers who stayed at the Grand Waikikian by Hilton Grand Vacations should contact their primary doctor.

Decline in number of new cases is promising, but the pandemic isn't over yet (Feb. 17th)

The latest data provided by Chinese authorities show a decline in new cases of coronavirus infections. Still, WHO says that the evolution of the epidemic is hard to predict.

Several high-profile events postponed due to coronavirus (Feb. 17th)

Among the recent announcement, the annual International Exhibition of Inventions held in Geneva has been postponed by 6 months. Half of the exhibit's 700 vendors come from Asia. The Beijing Auto Show which was scheduled for late April is postponed. The new date is to be announced. Tokyo's marathon has been canceled for all non-professional runners. The March-1 race remains open for professional athletes only.

U.S. confirms 14 citizens onboard of Diamond Cruise Ship tested positive for virus (Feb. 16th)

Fourteen people who were evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship and flown back to the United States on charter flights tested positive for novel coronavirus, according to a joint statement from the U.S. Departments of State and Health and Human Services.

The passengers were among the 300 people removed from the ship, which is docked off the Japanese port city of Yokohama, Sunday night and flown to military bases in the United States. They were isolated from the other passengers during the flight and upon landing. Other passengers will also observe a 14-day quarantine period.

Total number of cases on Carnival's Diamond Princess cruise ship raises to 454 (Feb. 16th)

Japan has confirmed another 99 passengers tested positive for coronavirus onboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship, bringing the total of cases to 454.

Passengers who have been in isolation on the ship may face another 2-week quarantine if they have shared a cabin with someone who tested positive. Passengers also face an additional 2-week isolation period once they finally return to their home country.

Concerns over MS Westerdam cruise ship after passenger tested positive (Feb. 16th)

Concerns have been raised over the possible spread of the new coronavirus among hundreds of passengers who disembarked from a cruise ship in Cambodia on Friday, after one of them was confirmed to have the disease following a second test carried out in Malaysia.

Scores of passengers who left the MS Westerdam, which had been at sea for two weeks after leaving Hong Kong on 1 February, have traveled on to other destinations.