



# NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCOV) OUTBREAK

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, the World Health Organization officially declared the coronavirus epidemic a global health emergency.



## What Is The Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses were first discovered during the 1960s, and they are a family of viruses that are not necessarily lethal. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. They can cause illnesses ranging from [the common cold](#) to more severe diseases, and they are transmitted between animals and people.



## Where And When Did The New Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Start?

The source of the coronavirus is believed to be a local seafood market in Wuhan, a large city in Eastern China. The market – which has since been shut down – had stalls that were trading in many animals, including snakes and poultry.

According to health experts, the outbreak occurred when individuals, a large number being sellers from the Wuhan market, fell ill between December 12 and 29. At this time, the animal source of the outbreak is unclear.



## How Does One Contract It?

The virus is transmitted from animal to human but it can also be transmitted between humans. What's more, the virus is mutating thus this means that it's spreading much quicker.

According to the CDC, 2019-nCoV can spread between an infected person and a non-infected person through coughing, sneezing, touching, and shaking hands. Additionally, touching an object with particles on the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes can also cause the virus to spread.



## What Are The Symptoms?

Symptoms of the virus include:

- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Coughing
- Breathing difficulties

Additionally, the virus can also increase the risk of pneumonia, bronchitis, severe acute respiratory syndrome, as well as death. It's also been found that the fatality rate is likely to be higher in older adults.

## How Fast Is It Spreading?

At the time of this writing, **there have been a total of 45,188 cases confirmed, with 1,116 deaths and counting.**



There have been **44,670** cases and **1,114** deaths in Mainland China. The two other reported deaths occurred in the Philippines and Hong Kong.



### How Can I Protect Myself?

If you haven't been diagnosed with the virus and are worried about contracting it, be sure to take note of the following precautions:

- Cover all coughing and sneezing with your inner elbow
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with your hands
- Stay away from people who have signs of a respiratory tract infection, such as runny nose, coughing, and sneezing
- You can wear a face mask in public areas if you are concerned about risk



The number of cases in other countries includes:

- Hong Kong with 49
- Singapore with 47
- Thailand with 33
- South Korea and Japan with 28
- Malaysia and Taiwan with 18
- Germany with 16
- Australia and Vietnam with 15
- United States with 13
- France with 11
- Macau with 10
- United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom with 8
- Canada with 7
- India, Italy and the Philippines with 3
- Russia, and Spain the with 2
- Belgium, Cambodia, Finland, Sweden, Sri Lanka, as well as Nepal each with 1 case



The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has asked for [\\$675m to help countries address the expected spread of the virus.](#)



### With The Rapid Spreading, Is There A Vaccine Yet?

Unfortunately not, and it might take a while before there is one. Researchers are working to make a vaccine available but it may take a year before it is fully available.



### What About Treatment?

According to the CDC, while there are no specific treatments for coronavirus infections, they do state that most people recover on their own through rest and medication.

However, On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, China began enrolling patients in a clinical trial for an experimental drug for the new virus. The antiviral drug, called remdesivir and made by American pharmaceutical giant [Gilead](#), was administered to the first coronavirus patient in the United States, and doctors noted how his symptoms improved following a week of his condition worsening and pneumonia developing.



Additionally, if you have been confirmed to have the virus, or are being evaluated, then the CDC recommends that you:

- Stay at home
- Separate yourself from other people in your home, including using a separate bathroom
- Wear a face mask
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor
- Cover all coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid sharing household items
- Monitor your symptoms

Source: HealthCloud  
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