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CRIP

Coronavirus – UK Preparedness

COMMONLY RECOGNISED INFORMATION PICTURE

CRIP 2

Contact: Civil Contingencies Secretariat Irrelevant & Sensitive
Information correct as of **1430 Wednesday 29 January 2020**

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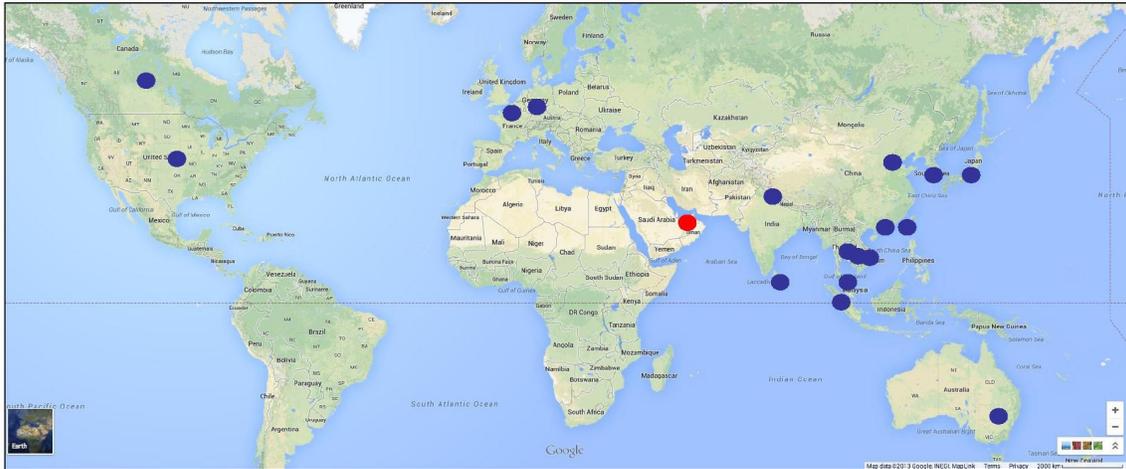
Overview

- On 31 December 2019, Chinese authorities notified the World Health Organization of an outbreak of viral pneumonia in Wuhan City. The cause has been identified as a previously unknown coronavirus – Wuhan novel coronavirus (WN-CoV).

Country/territory	Confirmed cases	Fatalities
Mainland China	5,974	132
Australia	6	0
Canada	3	0
France	4	0
Germany	4	0
Hong Kong	8	0
Japan	7	0
Macao	7	0
Malaysia	7	0
Nepal	1	0
Singapore/ Republic of Singapore	7	0
South Korea/ Republic of Korea	4	0
Sri Lanka	1	0
Taiwan	8	0
Thailand	14	0
USA	5	0
Vietnam/ Viet Nam	2	0
United Arab Emirates	1	0
Total	6,064	132

- We are currently aware of two cases of human-to-human transmission outside of China (Germany and Japan).
- There have been suggestions that the cause of the outbreak may be an animal disease that can be transmitted to humans. This market was closed on 1 January 2020 for disinfection. WHO testing of environmental samples from the Market has proven positive for the coronavirus.

Map of confirmed cases - Global



Confirmed cases: China (5974), Australia (6), Cambodia (1), Canada (3), France (4), Germany (4), Hong Kong (8), Japan (7), Macao (7), Malaysia (7), Nepal (1), Singapore (7), South Korea (4), Sri Lanka (1), Taiwan (8), Thailand (14), USA (5), Vietnam (2), **United Arab Emirates (1)**

Total confirmed cases: **6,064**

Total deaths: **132**

New location in: **UAE** ●

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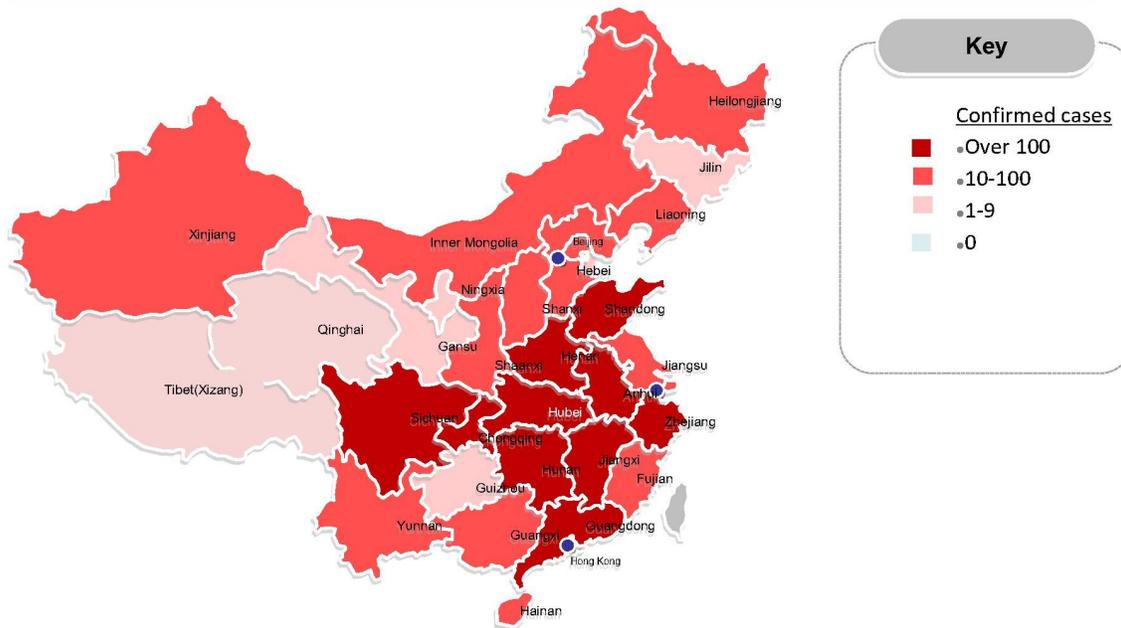
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Map of confirmed cases- China



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Cases of UK Nationals

	People being tested	Tests concluded	Confirmed cases
England	*	115	0
Scotland	*	12	0
Wales	*	2	0
Northern Ireland	*	2	0
Total	47	131	0

There are no reports of severe illness.

*Breakdown by country to follow once technical laboratory data issues resolved.

*data as off 11:00 GMT 29/01/2020

Individuals are assigned geography according to hospital specimen source (not residency)

Risk Picture and Trigger Points

Risk to the UK population: **LOW**

Risk to UK travellers to affected areas of travel: **MODERATE**

PHE Risk Assessment, 21/01/2020

The following CMO triggers have been met, resulting in the increase in risk assessment on 21 January:

- Some healthcare workers are infected
- Sustained human-to-human transmission (i.e. long chains of transmission within a community) may be occurring

SAGE agreed the following scenarios would trigger a reassessment of the UK response:

- Sustained transmission in a country other than China
- A severe case in the UK

Data related to these triggers are under constant review.

Potential scenarios

Key SAGE judgements

- Case fatality rate currently estimated to be lower than SARS, but uncertain.
- Current evidence suggests a single point zoonotic outbreak, now sustained by human-to-human transmission. No evidence of ongoing zoonotic transmission.
- Reproductive number est. 2-3, in accordance with estimates from Chinese authorities, but uncertain.
- Incubation period likely 5 days (average), but considerable variation across cases.
- Duration of infectivity unknown, but reasonable estimate is 14 days.
- The doubling time appears to be 3-4 days.
- Limited evidence of asymptomatic transmission, but early indications imply some occurring.
- A future SAGE will discuss advice for vulnerable groups.

Potential scenarios

- Virus is contained in mainland China
- Fatality rate remains 2-3% but not contained in China
- Fatality rate falls, but transmission increases
- Fatality same but transmission increases ["reasonable worst case scenario"]
- Both fatality and transmission increases ["worst case scenario"]

CMO to give verbal update

UK RWC Planning Assumptions

CMO to give verbal update

Proposed next steps

Proposed objectives

- Priorities in preparing for the RWCS are:
 - a) To protect life,
 - b) Maintain life as normal in the UK,
 - c) Limit economic impact to the UK, and;
 - d) Ensure dignified treatment of those who die

Planning activity

- All departments and Devolved Administrations should begin putting together their RWCS plan, building on work already done for a flu pandemic.
- DHSC and the CMO should start to coordinate proposals for any medical interventions, focusing on those which might require early procurement decisions.
- CCS should coordinate work with departments on what legislative easements may be required in the RWCS.
- MHCLG and DAs should be authorised to begin conversation with LRFs, including sharing the UK RWCS planning assumptions, to enable local planners to prepare.

Communications

- Early planning should not be referred to in public communications.
- MHCLG should communicate UK RWCS planning assumptions to LRFs.

Domestic UK Response

- Port health measures:
 - Currently being implemented
 - Public health advice posters and leaflets have been implemented at Heathrow. Materials have also been received at Gatwick and Manchester airports (with further roll out to all UK International airports) on actions people should take if they become unwell.
 - General aircraft declaration (GAD requested) from aircraft prior to landing
 - Leaflets provided on arrival from direct China flights with information on actions if become symptomatic in the next 14 days
 - Existing port health plans for managing symptomatic individuals
 - PHE presence at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester
 - Southern China Airline has confirmed that has sent an email to passengers that have flown to UK directly from Wuhan since 10 January, where they have individual passenger email addresses, advising what to do if they feel unwell.
 - PHE will be writing to passengers that have flown to the UK from China since 10 January where contact details are obtainable.
- This does not include temperature screening. Expert advice is that this is neither efficient or effective for the UK.
- DHSC are also liaising with MHCLG on keeping local resilience forums informed and DEFRA on the current levels of animal imports from China.

Assisted Departure of UK Nationals

- The Foreign Secretary approved the recommendation of planning for an assisted departure via commercial means.
- Just under 200 British nationals have expressed interest in an assisted departure on the planned UK charter flight; capacity is 475. The Foreign Secretary agreed to offer up to 40 seats for EU nationals; expressions of interest are being received via the EEAS Consular network.
- The UK charter flight arrived safely in Hanoi (at 06:40Z) and is scheduled to depart for Wuhan at 02:00Z on 30th January. The flight contains medical supplies requested by the Chinese Government.
- The flight does not yet have Chinese Government agreement to land in Wuhan. The Foreign Secretary spoke to [redacted] China on 28 January and is due to speak with him again this afternoon. We continue to lobby the Chinese Government at all levels to grant permission for our plan.
- If cleared, the flight will return British Nationals who want to leave Wuhan. All UK-based staff from Wuhan (including I&S and RDT) will return with them. We are issuing further messages to British Nationals in the area to ensure that all who have not yet registered for a departure option now do so.
- DHSC, PHE and NHS England are advising on relevant health and public health considerations for the evacuation plan. The UK pre-flight assessment includes relevant health questions and we understand people will be required to undergo Chinese pre-flight screening. PHE currently assess the risk to the UK population to be low.

UK Support to International Response

- 21 January: X-Whitehall EpiThreat meeting
- 22 January: HMA Beijing interview Caixin newspaper made a public offer of UK support to China;
- 24 January: while not declaring the virus a health emergency, WHO in China looking at joint Chinese/international missions to manage the public health risk. Possible scope for UK contribution.
- 27 January: Request overnight from Chinese authorities for medical supplies. We are considering logistics.
- 27 January: GCSA, CMO, CEO of UKRI, CEO of MRC, CEO of Wellcome met to discuss UK science contribution to international effort to contain outbreak.
- 28 January: The Foreign Secretary spoke to [Irrelevant & Sensitive] China to allow dual nationals and dependents to depart via the evacuation flight should they wish. The FM assured the Foreign Secretary that families would not be split up; [Irrelevant & Sensitive] [Irrelevant & Sensitive]
- WHO release \$1.8m from the Contingencies Fund for Emergencies (the UK is the third largest donor).
- **29 January:** We continue to lobby the Chinese government at all levels to grant permission for our flight (currently in Hanoi) to depart for Wuhan to collect evacuees.
- DFID EpiThreats meeting convened. Priorities include internal mapping of risk to DFID priority countries and development of DFID's science offer, including rapid diagnostic testing.
- **30 January:** Potential WHO declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in Geneva following a visit by WHO Director General to China on 27/28 January.

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UK Travel Advice

- 22 January:** FCO updated travel advice (which includes input from PHE) to advise against all but essential travel to Wuhan City
- 23 January:** Further update to advise against all but essential travel to Wuhan city.
- 26 January:** Travel advice updated to avoid "all travel to the Hubei Province".
- 28 January:** Travel advice was updated to avoid "all but essential travel" to mainland China.
- 29 January:** Travel advice was updated to include information about suspended flights. As of 29/1 (12:00) it currently reads:

"The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Hubei Province due to the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak. If you're in this area and able to leave, you should do so.

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China (not including Hong Kong and Macao). The Chinese government continue to impose further restrictions on movement within China in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Some airlines, including British Airways, have suspended flights to and from mainland China. Other commercial airlines are still operating, but it may become harder over the coming weeks for those who wish to leave China to do so. If you feel that you may want to leave China soon, you should consider making plans to do so before any further restrictions may be imposed."

Communications

- Coronavirus continues to be covered extensively across national media and is continuing to run prominently on broadcast.
- Queries to DHSC media relations have largely focused on the logistics around plans to repatriate and isolate UK nationals currently residing in Wuhan, as well as individual cases which have led to testing.
- The CMO gave a background, off-the-record briefing to key health correspondents to contextualise the impact and spread of coronavirus on 27 January.
- FCO updated their travel advice yesterday (28 January), confirming that all but essential travel to China should be avoided, while a number of airlines including British Airways have stopped all flights to/from mainland China.
- PHE have continued to produce additional materials for public information, including posters and leaflets for distribution at airports and proactive social media content.
- The Health Secretary provided an update to the House on 27 January.
- DHSC comms are consistently updating rolling scripts and Q&A.

Communications

FCO have been responding to media queries following the FCO's change travel advice yesterday (28 Jan) evening. FCO issued a statement to the R4 Today Programme today for a piece about dual nationals being prevented from leaving Wuhan by the Chinese authorities.

UK Media

- BBC News, Sky News and national media including the Guardian are reporting that British Airways has suspended all flights to and from China as a result of the Foreign Office's change in travel advice. National broadcasters and nationals including the Independent reports the Foreign Office's change in travel advice. Simon Calder, an independent travel journalist, spoke about the implications on BBC News.
- Stories of dual British-Chinese nationals being denied permission to leave China are beginning to be picked up in The Daily Mail, BBC News and The Guardian. Earlier today a British national in Wuhan was interviewed on the BBC saying they were pleased to have clarity from the UK Government about evacuation plans, although information about the flight time and return airport were not given. Meanwhile a dual national speaking to The Telegraph criticised the Government for lack of contact.
- The Press Association and other outlets are reporting on other countries' plans to evacuate their citizens.

Social Media

- The conversation about Coronavirus on social media has been quieter this morning, with focus on other news stories (Brexit, Huawei, Harry Dunn).

Background - Coronaviruses

- Coronaviruses are common throughout the world
- Illnesses caused by coronaviruses range from the common cold to more serious diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).
- Coronaviruses are zoonotic i.e. they are transmitted between animals and people.
- Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, SARS, kidney failure and death.
- Some coronaviruses can be transmitted from person-to-person, usually after close contact with an infected person.