



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch  
Integrated Biosurveillance Section  
**Global COVID-19 Surveillance Summary #9**  
**19 MAR 2020**



**BLUF:**

- (U) As of 19 MAR, 9,415 confirmed and presumptive positive COVID-19 cases (150 deaths) have been reported in 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. States with a high burden of COVID-19 cases include: NY, WA, CA, NJ, FL, IL, and TX. All 50 states and Washington, DC have declared states of emergency.
- (U) As of 15 MAR, CDC confirmatory testing of presumptive positive samples is no longer required of laboratories using the CDC's Emergency Use Authorization assay.
- (U) On 13 MAR, the DoD issued a stop movement order for all domestic DoD personnel and family member official travel, except for medical treatment purposes.

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**(U) CASE REPORT:** From mid-DEC 2019 to 19 MAR 2020, 222,642 (+103,688) confirmed cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) including 9,115 (+4,820) deaths have been reported in 159 (+38) countries, regions, and territories worldwide. Mainland China had accounted for the majority of reported cases at the start of the outbreak; however, over the past three weeks, countries/regions outside of China have accounted for the majority of new cases. The highest cumulative case counts outside of mainland China include Italy (35,713 (+25,564) cases, 2,978 (+2,347) deaths), Iran (18,407 (+10,365) cases, 1,284 (+1,070) deaths), and Spain (15,014 cases, 640 deaths). As of 19 MAR, at least 141,488 (+103,312) cases of COVID-19 have been reported outside of mainland China. Per WHO, local transmission of COVID-19 has now been documented in 14 (+5) countries/regions/territories in CENTCOM, 28 (+25) in AFRICOM, two in NORTHCOM, 56 (+24) in EUCOM, 22 (+4) in INDOPACOM, and 33 (+27) in SOUTHCOM. On 18 MAR, CDC reported that an analysis of 4,226 U.S. cases from 12 FEB to 16 MAR indicated that people over the age of 85 were at most risk for severe illness or death.

**(U)** As of 19 MAR, 9,415 (+8,092) confirmed and presumptive positive COVID-19 cases (150 (+112) deaths) have been reported in 50 (+18) U.S. states and Washington, DC, including 49 cases in repatriated American citizens (see map). States with the highest burden of COVID-19 include NY, WA, CA, NJ, FL, IL, and TX. All 50 (+25) states and Washington, DC have declared states of emergency.

**(U)** On 11 MAR, the President of the United States announced a suspension of most travel from the European Union (EU) to the U.S. for 30 days, beginning 13 MAR. The suspension applies to non-U.S. nationals who have visited any of the 26 countries in the EU within the past two weeks. On 14 MAR, President Trump issued a Proclamation that extended the travel suspension to include non-U.S. nationals from the UK.

**(U) BACKGROUND:** On 7 JAN, Chinese health officials reported the isolation of a novel coronavirus (subsequently labelled “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)”) from a sample collected from one of 27 hospitalized cases of viral pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan, China. Chinese health authorities subsequently made the full genetic sequence available through publicly accessible databases/platforms including GenBank and GISAID, enabling multiple countries to develop PCR assays for the detection of COVID-19. Preliminary analysis of SARS-CoV-2 found it to be 73% similar to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV).

**(U) GLOBAL SPREAD & CLUSTERS:** On 11 MAR, WHO officially declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic, citing “alarming levels of spread and severity, and alarming levels of inaction” as justification for this assessment. On 13 MAR, the DoD issued a stop movement order for all domestic DoD personnel and family member official travel, except for medical treatment purposes. On 16 MAR, U.S. CDC recommended that all public gatherings of ten or more people be cancelled for the next two weeks.

**(U)** In Italy, 31,506 (+21,357) cases and 2,503 (+1,872) deaths have been reported to date. Italy, Spain, and France have restricted movement of their citizens. On 16 MAR the European Union voted to close its borders to outside travelers for at least 30 days. On 11 MAR, CDC issued a Level 3: Avoid Nonessential Travel—Widespread Ongoing Transmission for the European Union due to COVID-19. On 15 MAR, CDC issued a Level 3: Avoid Nonessential Travel—Widespread Ongoing Transmission to include the United Kingdom. On 15 MAR, the DoS issued a Global Health Advisory Level 3: Reconsider Travel due to COVID-19. As of 13 MAR, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) assesses the risk of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and UK to be “moderate to high”.

**(U)** On 24 FEB, USAG Italy announced that it would be closing all Vicenza Military Community (VMC) DoD Education Activity (DoDEA) schools and activities starting 24 FEB as a precautionary measure; as of 19 MAR, all VMC DoDEA activities continue to be suspended. On installations social distancing is being enforced at PX’s, commissaries, and post offices.

**(U)** As of 19 MAR, there have been 8,565 (+810) cases (91 (+31) deaths) in ROK. The majority (75%) of cases in ROK were reported from Daegu City in North Gyeongsang Province, where a cluster of human-to-human transmission occurred at the Shincheonji Church of Jesus. Daegu is the fourth-largest city in the country; several U.S. military installations are located in or very near to Daegu.

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**(U)** On 13 MAR, CDC issued updated interim guidance for [Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from PUIs](#) to recommend only collecting and testing a single upper respiratory nasopharyngeal swab (NP). On 16 MAR, CDC issued updated guidance for the [release of persons with COVID-19 under home isolation](#).

**(U) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES & DIAGNOSTICS:** On 4 FEB, the U.S. FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for patients who meet the CDC criteria for COVID-19 testing, enabling emergency use of the test kit in the U.S. On 5 FEB, CDC began shipping diagnostic test kits to 115 qualified state/local public health and DoD laboratories. [As of 15 MAR, CDC confirmatory testing of presumptive positive samples is no longer required of laboratories using the CDC's EUA assay.](#)

**(U) TRANSMISSION:** According to WHO's latest estimates, the incubation period for COVID-19 (time from infection to development of symptoms) ranges from 2-10 days. Chinese authorities have estimated an upper limit of 14 days. A 10 MAR report published in the [Annals of Internal Medicine](#) that analyzed confirmed COVID-19 cases reported outside of China from 4 JAN to 24 FEB found that the median incubation period for COVID-19 was five days, with 98% of cases developing symptoms within 11.5 days. China CDC's latest [estimate](#) of the  $R_0$  (basic reproduction number) ranges from 2.0-3.0. For comparison, the  $R_0$  of SARS-CoV ranges from 2.0-5.0.  $R_0$  represents the expected number of people an infected individual could spread a virus to in a susceptible population. On 3 MAR, the [WHO Director-General](#) noted that 3.4% of reported global COVID-19 cases have died, in contrast to seasonal influenza, which usually kills less than 1% of those infected.

**(U)** As of 4 MAR, [CDC](#) reports that droplet spread (exposure within six feet of someone with respiratory symptoms) and contaminated surfaces (touching a droplet-contaminated surface and then touching the eyes and mouth) continue to be the major routes of transmission. A 17 MAR [Science](#) article reported that [substantial undocumented cases \(due to mild or asymptomatic infections\) in China may have facilitated the rapid spread of COVID-19 prior to the institution of 23 JAN travel restrictions.](#) An 11 MAR article published by Chinese researchers in [The Lancet](#) noted that hospitalized COVID-19 patients shed the virus for a median period of 20 days. A 17 MAR [NEJM](#) article about research funded by NIH found that [SARS-CoV-2 can survive for up to three days on plastic and stainless steel surfaces.](#)

**(U)** The source of SARS-CoV-2 is still unknown, but is most likely an animal reservoir. The [World Organization for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#) notes that genetic sequence data reveals that SARS-CoV-2 is a close relative of another coronavirus found circulating in *Rhinolophus* (Horseshoe Bat) populations, however, it is possible that transmission to humans involved an intermediate host. China has initiated research on the origins and transmission pathways of SARS-CoV-2, jointly initiated by the Chinese CDC, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. The Chinese CDC Virology Institute tested 585 environmental and animal samples from the Huanan Seafood Market and many fresh markets in Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak; 33 samples were positive for SARS-CoV-2, including 31 samples from the Western District of Huanan, where wild animals are sold. According to China CDC, this concentrated data suggests that the outbreak may be related to wildlife trading. The [OIE](#) has issued recommended precautionary measures to take with live animals or animal products. OIE is also closely liaising with its network of experts involved in current investigations of the potential role of animals in the outbreak and the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in animals.

**(U)** On 26 FEB, [OIE](#) received notification from the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department that a dog had been placed under quarantine after its owner was hospitalized with COVID-19. Blood samples taken from the animal tested negative for COVID-19. Follow up nasal, oral, rectal swabs, and feces were collected and tested on 28 FEB and 2, 5, 9, 12 MAR, and 13 MAR. Both oral and nasal samples taken on 28 FEB tested positive, and nasal samples continued to test positive [until 12 and 13 MAR, when all samples tested negative.](#) On 13 MAR, [the dog was released from quarantine and returned to its owner.](#) The animal did not show clinical signs of illness while under quarantine. [Media reported that the dog, a 17-year-old Pomeranian, died shortly after being reunited with its owner.](#) On 12 MAR, [WHO](#) reported there is currently no evidence that companion animals such as dogs or cats can be infected with SARS-CoV-2.

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CDC Travel Health Notices and U.S. Department of State (DoS) Travel Advisories for COVID-19 Outbreak as of 18 MAR 2020			
	Level	Country	Latest update
CDC	Warning: Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel	<a href="#">Malaysia</a>	18 MAR
		<a href="#">Cruise Ship Travel</a>	17 MAR
		<a href="#">Europe</a>	17 MAR
		<a href="#">United Kingdom and Ireland</a>	17 MAR
		<a href="#">China</a>	17 MAR
		<a href="#">Iran</a>	17 MAR
		<a href="#">Republic of Korea (ROK)</a>	17 MAR
	Alert: Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions	<a href="#">Global COVID-19 Outbreak Notice</a>	16 MAR
DoS	COVID-19 UPDATE	<a href="#">Information for Travelers</a>	14 MAR
	Level 4: Do Not Travel	<a href="#">Mongolia</a>	18 MAR
		<a href="#">China</a>	2 FEB
		<a href="#">Iran</a>	26 FEB
	Level 3: Reconsider Travel	<a href="#">Israel, The West Bank, and Gaza</a>	13 MAR
		<a href="#">Global Health Advisory</a>	15 MAR
		<a href="#">Azerbaijan</a>	6 MAR
		<a href="#">Turkmenistan</a>	6 MAR
		<a href="#">ROK</a>	29 FEB
		<a href="#">Italy</a>	29 FEB
		Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution	<a href="#">Macao</a>
	<a href="#">Hong Kong</a>		20 FEB
	<a href="#">Japan</a>		22 FEB

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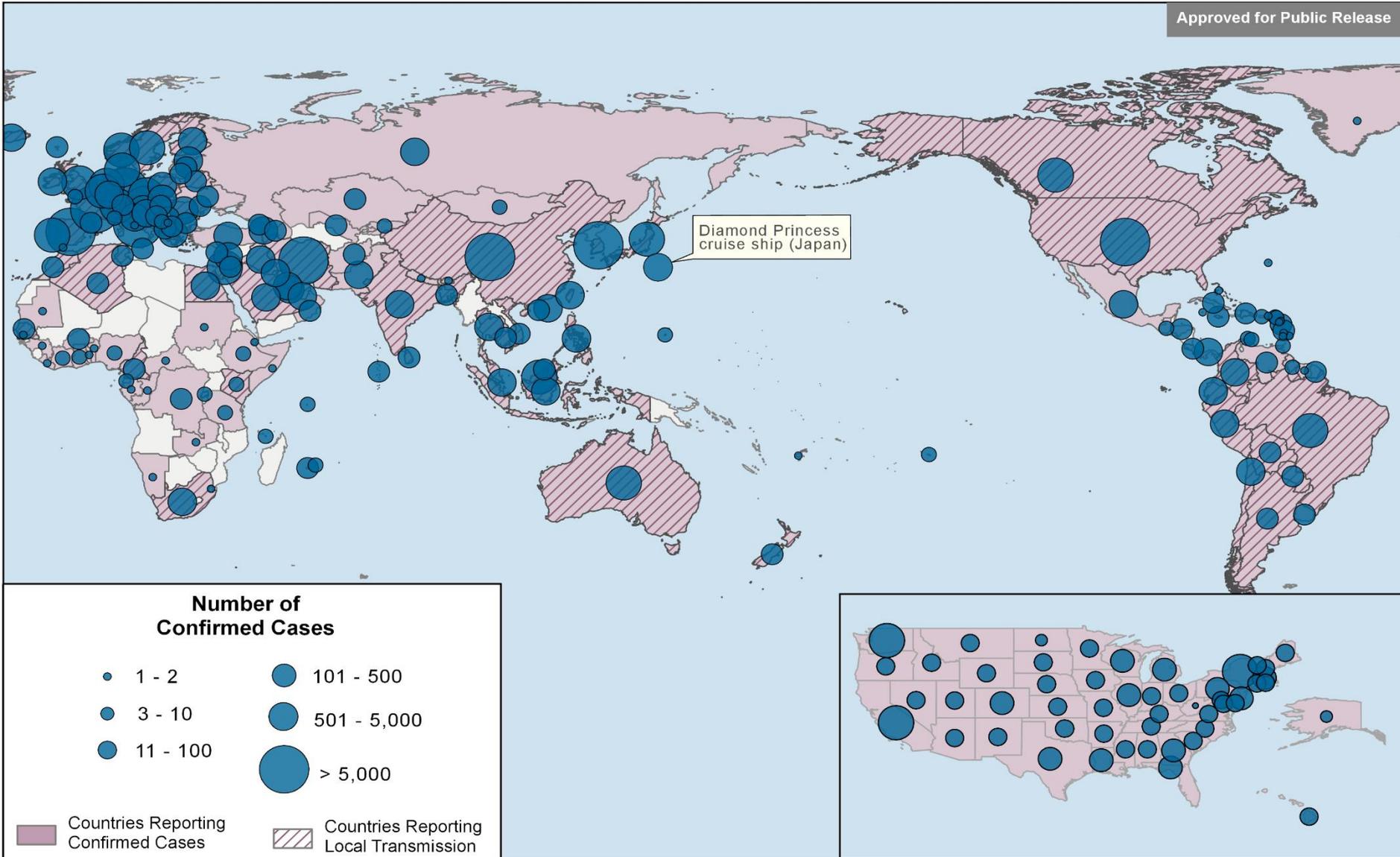


# 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak

## Data as of 19 MAR 2020



Approved for Public Release



Sources: CDC, JHU, NHC, WHO