

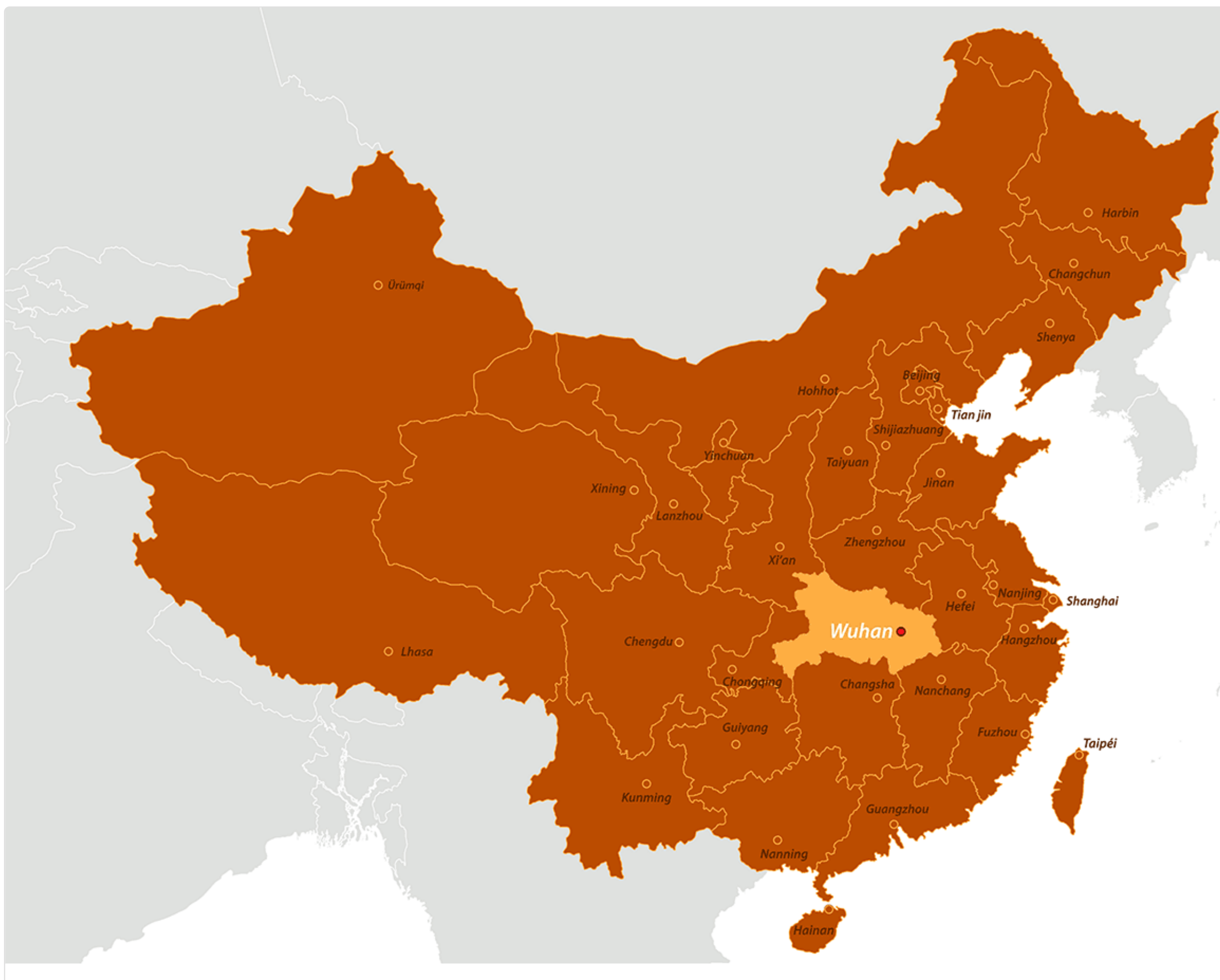
2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan, China

This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated information as it becomes available, in addition to updated guidance.

Updated January 20, 2020

Situation Summary



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities first identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in about 200 confirmed human infections in China with [three deaths reported](#) [↗](#). A number of countries, including the United States, are actively screening incoming travelers from Wuhan and exported cases have been confirmed in [Thailand](#), [Japan](#) [↗](#), and [South Korea](#) [↗](#).

Chinese health authorities posted the full genome of the so-called “2019 novel coronavirus” or “2019-nCoV” in [GenBank](#) [↗](#), the NIH genetic sequence database, and in the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data ([GISAID](#) [↗](#)) portal.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people such as has been seen with [MERS](#) and [SARS](#). Past MERS and SARS outbreaks have been complex, requiring comprehensive public health responses.

Many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China have reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting limited person-to-person spread is occurring.

There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

Risk Assessment

Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on characteristics of the virus, including whether and how well it spreads between people, the severity of resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine, treatment medications).


There is much more to learn about how the 2019-nCoV virus spreads, severity of associated illness, and other features of the virus. Investigations are ongoing. Based on current information, however, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is deemed to be low at this time. Nevertheless, CDC is taking proactive preparedness precautions.

What to Expect

Access to the full genetic sequence of 2019-nCoV will help identify infections with this virus going forward. More cases may be identified in the coming days, including more in countries outside China, and possibly in the United States. Given what has occurred previously with MERS and SARS, it's likely that some limited person-to-person spread will continue to occur.

CDC Response

- CDC is closely monitoring this situation and is working with WHO.
- CDC established a 2019-nCoV Incident Management Structure on January 7, 2020.
- CDC has updated its interim [travel health notice](#) for this destination to provide information to people who may be traveling to Wuhan City and who may get sick.

- [CDC began entry screening of passengers](#) on direct and connecting flights from Wuhan China to the three main ports of entry in the United States on January 17, 2020.
- CDC issued an [updated interim Health Alert Notice \(HAN\) Advisory](#) to inform state and local health departments and health care providers about this outbreak on January 17, 2020.
- CDC has developed a Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test that can diagnose 2019-nCoV. Currently, testing for this virus must take place at CDC, but in the coming days and weeks, CDC will share these test kits with domestic and international partners through the agency's [International Reagent Resource](#) .

Other Available Resources

The following resources are available with information on 2019-nCoV

- [CDC Travelers' Health: Novel Coronavirus in China](#)
- [CDC Health Alert Network Advisory Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) in Wuhan, China](#)
- [CDC Health Alert Network Advisory information for state and local health departments and health care providers](#)
- [CDC Information on Coronaviruses](#)
- [World Health Organization, Coronavirus](#) 

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