Primer Contents

Brief Overview – Wuhan Coronavirus

International Legal Response Efforts
  World Health Organization
  Foreign Governments

U.S. Legal Preparedness/Response

Additional Resources
Note: Limited information is currently available about the Wuhan coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Some data below are based on other coronaviruses (e.g., MERS, SARS) and are subject to change.

Global Confirmed Cases: >2800 | Deaths: >80 | Mortality Rate: ~2%

Transmission:
- Possible animal source - initially infected persons in the Wuhan outbreak have been epidemiologically linked to a large seafood and animal market.
- Transmissible person-to-person with potential infectivity rate approaching or exceeding influenza.

Symptoms:
- Respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties.
- In severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and death.

Treatment:
- No proven vaccines or specific treatments are available.
Coronavirus Global Distribution

International Legal Response Efforts
Jan. 22, 2020: WHO convenes emergency committee meeting but postpones decision on declaring PHEIC.


Dec. 31, 2019: Outbreak of pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan initially reported to WHO.
Jan. 23, 2020: WHO declines to declare a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

“It is expected that further international exportation of cases may appear in any country. Thus, all countries should be prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of 2019-nCoV infection, and to share full data with WHO.”
China Public Health Responses

Jan. 27, 2020: Chinese authorities prohibit travel into and out of Wuhan, Huanggang, Ezhou, Chibi, Zhijiang, and other cities with populations exceeding 50 million and extends Lunar New Year holiday by multiple days.


Jan. 21, 2020: Ruling Communist Party committee temporarily posts that anyone deliberately hiding disease infection in China will be “forever nailed to history’s pillar of shame.”
Hong Kong declares a state of emergency in response to five confirmed coronavirus cases
U.S. Legal Response Efforts
Jan. 22, 2020: Pres. Trump:

“We have it totally under control. It's one person coming in from China. It’s going to be just fine.”

Jan. 24, 2020: Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) calls on HHS to declare public health emergency (PHE)

Jan. 26, 2020: Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) suggests HHS declare a PHE
Requests for Close Monitoring

Federal Agency Responses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/7/2020</td>
<td>Established 2019-nCoV Incident Management Structure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/17/2020</td>
<td>Travel notice raised from Level 1; Practice Usual Precautions, to Level 2: Practice Enhanced Precautions for Wuhan, China.</td>
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<td>1/21/2020</td>
<td>Began entry screening of passengers on direct and connecting flights from Wuhan, China to 3 main ports of entry in the U.S.</td>
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<td>1/21/2020</td>
<td>Added screening to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.</td>
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<td>1/20/2020</td>
<td>Activated emergency operations center with Global Migration, Medical Care/ Countermeasures, and Epidemiology/Surveillance Task Forces.</td>
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<td>1/17/2020</td>
<td>Issued updated interim Health Alert Notice Advisory informing state/local health departments &amp; providers about the outbreak.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/23/2020</td>
<td>Raised travel alert to highest Level 4.</td>
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Domestic Cases of 2019-nCoV

Jan. 21, 2020: CDC confirms 1st U.S. case of 2019-nCoV, a man returning from Wuhan and being treated in Washington State.

Jan. 22, 2020: Public health workers are “actively monitoring” more than a dozen other people.


Jan. 27, 2020: CDC confirms 5th U.S. case of 2019-nCoV in 4 states (AZ, CA, IL, WA); dozens of potential cases are under surveillance.
U.S. Cases of 2019-nCoV

The map shows cases of 2019-nCoV in the United States. There are cases reported in Washington, California, Arizona, and Illinois. The map is credited to The Network for Public Health Law and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Emerging Legal Issues

Topics

- Travel Restrictions/Closures
- Social Distancing Measures
- Surveillance & Reporting
- Liability & Insurance
- Employment/Privacy
- Public Health Preparedness
- Testing/Screening/Treatment
Jan. 24, 2020: Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) issues initial letter to HHS seeking travel restrictions, but later opines after Congressional briefing “[federal health officials] don’t think that that’s necessary quite yet. . . .”

After the same briefing, NIH’s Dr. Anthony Fauci responded: “It’s not something that I think we're even considering.”
Airport Public Health Preparedness & Response: Legal Rights, Powers & Duties

Legal Considerations for Communicable Disease Response Planning:

- Reporting of ill passengers
- Measures to detect communicable diseases
- Surveillance
- Non-invasive procedures
- Invasive procedures (with consent)
- Contact tracing
- Isolation & Quarantine

Available at:
http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/177931.aspx
Jan. 24, 2020: Ohio Department of Health classifies 2019-nCoV a “Class A” condition for which “confirmed or suspected cases . . . must be reported immediately to the local health district where the person lives (or . . . is being evaluated . . . ).”

Required reporters include physicians providing care, administrators in charge of hospitals, clinics or other institutions providing care or treatment, laboratory administrators, or any individual having knowledge of a person with nCoV (emphasis added).”
Acknowledgements

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• Ask the Network concerning questions or comments relating to this information or ongoing 2019-nCoV legal preparedness and response efforts

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