

COVID-19 Update 2-27-2020

What is the current situation?

A new coronavirus that recently emerged in China has been detected in several other locations around the world. Many cases of COVID-19 have been associated with travel to or from mainland China or close contact with a travel-related case, but sustained community spread has been reported in Japan. Sustained community spread means that people have been infected with the virus, but how or where they became infected is not known, and the spread is ongoing.

Illness with this virus has ranged from mild to severe.

Signs and symptoms of infection: include fever cough, and difficulty breathing. Sore throat and diarrhea have also been reported in some patients. This new coronavirus has caused severe disease and death in patients who developed pneumonia. Risk factors for severe illness are not yet clear, although older adults and those with chronic medical conditions may be at higher risk for severe illness

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis remains an incredibly fluid situation and has now become a global health concern. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting its first case of probable community (person-to-person) transmission within the US. spread and expect new cases to be identified over the coming days and weeks

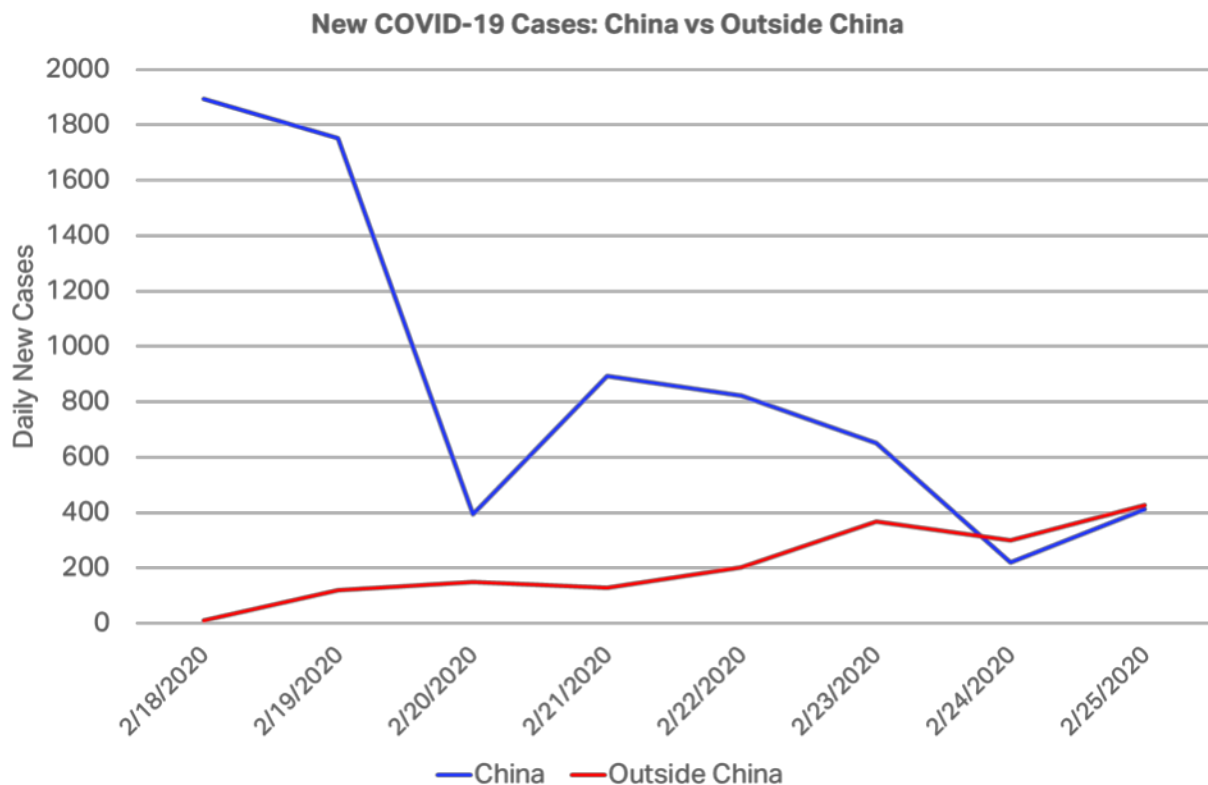
Director General of the World Health Organization:

“Yesterday, the number of new cases reported outside China exceeded the number of new cases in China for the first time. The sudden increases of cases in Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Korea are deeply concerning. There are now cases linked to Italy in Algeria, Austria, Croatia, Germany, Spain and Switzerland.”

IATA Surgeon:

“Every country needs to be ready to detect cases early, to isolate patients, trace contacts, provide quality clinical care, prevent hospital outbreaks, and prevent community transmission. There are three priorities: First, all countries must prioritize protecting health workers. Second, we must engage communities to protect people who are most at risk of severe disease, particularly the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. And third, we must protect countries that are the most vulnerable, by doing our utmost to contain epidemics in countries with the capacity to do it.”

Concerning the report of a Korean cabin crew member who is a positive case: although the crew member is known to have been on a flight which carried people who subsequently became confirmed cases, the origin of the infection is said to be unclear and a report is awaited. The crew member did not fly when unwell.



Amongst the findings risk factors for mortality include age over 60 (85.7% of fatalities); long (>7 days) illness history before being hospitalized; and high blood pressure and coronary heart disease. Not surprisingly, requiring intubation/ventilation is also a risk factor.

Government and Company Response

The U.S. Government announced they have suspended entry to foreign nationals who have been in China within the past 14 days and has instituted extensive screening, health monitoring, and possible quarantining for U.S. citizens and residents who have visited parts of mainland China over the past two weeks. The CDC has also issued a notice to avoid all nonessential travel to China, while the Department of Homeland Security has been redirecting all flights from China and all passengers who have visited. The company has mirrored their response to that of the U.S. State Department Security Directive. The United States has increased its health screening capability at gateway cities. The crisis continues to escalate in Italy, South Korea, and Japan.

State Department Travel Advisories - February 26, 2020

South Korea - Level 3: Reconsider Travel Reconsider travel to South Korea due to an outbreak of COVID-19.

[South Korea Travel Advisory](#)

Japan - Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution: Exercise Increased Caution due to an outbreak of COVID-19 (also known as the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2)

[Japan Travel Advisory](#)

Italy - Italy - Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution Exercise increased caution in Italy due to a recent outbreak of COVID-19 and terrorism.

[Italy Travel Advisory](#)

CDC – Warns of Pandemic Potential

The CDC has previously stated the COVID-19 virus has the potential to become a global pandemic. The virus, which has now infected more than 80,200 and killed at least 2,704 people, has spread rapidly over the past week through South Korea, Iran and Italy. The virus has now spread to every continent except Antarctica. *(as of 2-27-2020)*

What APFA is doing

Since the COVID-19 crisis began APFA has insisted the Company to be proactive rather than reactive and continues to demand universal protection and procedures to protect and mitigate the risk to working crews and passengers.

APFA has also been working to ensure Flight Attendants receive contractual pay and rescheduling protections. American has responded to the crisis by pulling down flying to China, Hong Kong, and is evaluating South Korea and possibly Italy. There is on-going assessment of the schedule, risk mitigation and passenger demand.

APFA continues to call on American to be proactive rather than reactive during this crisis. Specifically, making sure to provide Flight Attendants timely information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, and the flights affected. APFA remains vigilant with the request that all International flights be boarded with gloves, masks, hand soap, hand sanitizer, and all aircraft lavatories are working and accessible for hand washing.

APFA is asking that all flights to and from countries where there are now CDC Level 2 or higher alerts, should provide Flight Attendants with appropriate personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, etc.) and provide refresher training for employees (can be done in briefings) in the proper use and disposal.

These are the current **Level 3** destinations, to which CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel:

[China Health Notice](#)

[South Korea Health Notice](#)

These are the current **Level 2** destinations, which have sustained community transmission of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19:

[Italy Health Notice](#)

[Japan Health Notice](#)

[CDC Reporting Tool for Cabin Crew](#)

CDC recommends the following measures for cabin crew to protect themselves, manage a sick traveler, clean contaminated areas, and take actions after a flight:

- Practice routine handwashing.
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after assisting sick travelers or touching potentially contaminated body fluids or surfaces.
 - Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available.
- Follow standard precautions to prevent healthcare-associated infections
 - Review [CDC online course materials](#) on handwashing and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Identify sick travelers who meet the above description.
 - Minimize contact between passengers and cabin crew and the sick person. If possible, separate the sick person from others (6 feet is ideal) and designate one crew member to serve the sick person.
 - Offer a facemask, if available and if the sick person can tolerate it. If a facemask is not available or cannot be tolerated, ask the sick person to cover their mouth and nose with tissues when coughing or sneezing.
- Treat all body fluids (such as respiratory secretions, diarrhea, vomit, or blood) as if they are infectious.

- Wear disposable gloves when tending to a sick traveler or touching body fluids or potentially contaminated surfaces. [Remove gloves carefully](#) to avoid contaminating yourself, then wash hands.
- When tending to a sick traveler from China who has fever, persistent cough, or difficulty breathing, use additional protective equipment in the [Universal Precaution Kit](#) face mask, eye protection, and a gown to cover clothing.
- Properly dispose of gloves and other disposable items that came in contact with the sick person or body fluids in biohazard bag or a secured plastic bag labeled as “biohazard.”
- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces according to airline protocol.
- Report, as soon as possible before arrival, by one of the methods described in the [Guidance for Air Travel Industry Reporting of Onboard Death or Illnesses to CDC](#).
- Review CDC’s [Infection Control Guidelines for Cabin Crew](#)
 - CDC recommends that companies review and update, as needed, their personal protection policies and communicate and train employees on how to manage sick travelers.

[FAA SAFO Guidance for Air Carriers and Crews](#)