COVID-19
Situation Report #7
February 27, 2020

Key Updates

- The number of new COVID-19 cases outside of China has exceeded number of new cases reported in China for the first time.
- More than 14 new countries have reported cases since February 22.
- United Airlines and Project HOPE are partnering to procure and deliver 15 ventilators to 11 hospitals in Hubei Province in coming days.
- Project HOPE is procuring and preparing for the distribution of critically needed medical equipment including medical air compressors, defibrillators and patient monitors for hospitals in Wuhan.
- In response to the increase in global cases, HOPE is expanding its response strategy to include pandemic preparedness activities.

Situation Overview

Rise in Number of Cases Outside of China
On February 25, the number of new cases of COVID-19 reported outside of China exceeded the number of new cases in China for the first time.\(^i\) The total number of cases globally is now 82,604 and 2,810 deaths. Of these, 4,106 cases and 66 deaths have been reported outside of mainland China across 49 countries and territories as well as the Diamond Cruise Ship.\(^ii\)

Since February 22, more than 14 new countries have reported cases of COVID-19 including: Lebanon, Israel, Kuwait, Algeria, Austria, Croatia, Switzerland, Brazil\(^iii\), Afghanistan, Denmark, Estonia, Norway, Romania and Iraq.\(^iv\)

This week, South Korea, Italy and Iran saw sharp increases in the number of cases and deaths caused by COVID-19. On Monday, South Korea announced 231 new cases within 24 hours and as of Thursday the total is more than 1,700 cases.\(^v\) Today, Iran reported 245 people infected and 26 deaths; however, experts

Response Tracker
Facilitated the distribution of PPE and supplies including more than:
- 4.2 million face masks
- 87,000 isolation gowns
- 20,300 protective coveralls
- 273,000 pairs of exam gloves

Supplies delivered to more than 22 hospitals across Hubei Province (17+), Shanghai, Yunan Province, Jiangsu Province, Anhui Province, Sichuan Province

Upcoming distributions
- 15 ventilators and 12 medical air compressors
- 495,000 face masks
- 20 defibrillators and 20 patient monitors
- 1,500 masks and 500 face shields
- More than 2,100 surgical gowns
are guessing the number of cases is closer to 1,100 given the fatality rate of approximately 2 percent.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has reported locally acquired cases in Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Croatia and Romania. Several countries, including Japan and Iraq, are beginning to close schools and announce strict travel bans in effort to further reduce transmission.

See an animated map showing the global spread, [here](#).

**WHO-China Joint Mission Team Shares Findings from Recent China Visit**

Dr. Bruce Aylward, a World Health Organization (WHO) expert and head of the recent WHO-China joint mission on COVID-19, shared findings from the visit on February 25. High-level news from the briefing include the following:

- The virus seems to have peaked in China between January 23-February 2.
- The number of undetected cases in China is likely low.
- Approximately 80 percent of patients with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, 13 percent have severe symptoms and six percent are critically ill.
- The case fatality rate in China is between 2-4%
- Countries need to prepare for COVID-19 including actions such as planning space for isolation units and ensuring health facilities are equipped with critical equipment such as ventilators.

**New CDC Travel Warnings**

The U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has issued the following travel warnings and alerts regarding the virus:

- **Warning Level 3** – Avoid all nonessential travel to China and South Korea
- **Alert Level 2** – Consider postponing travel to Iran, Italy and Japan due to sustained community transmission

There is a Watch Level 1 in place for Hong Kong and the CDC also highlights the following as destinations with risk of community spread: Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

**Stock Market Falls for Sixth Day in a Row**

Coronavirus fears continue to impact stocks as Wall Street faces its sixth straight day of declines. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq all plunged Thursday morning, marking the worst week for stocks since the financial crisis. Shares in Europe and Asia experienced similar hits Thursday as well and crude oil fell more than four percent. Analysts from Goldman Sachs have predicted that companies in
the S&P 500 would generate no profit in 2020 due to the crisis, which is impacting supply chains and business travel among other operations.xiii

**Chinese Scientists Report COVID-19 Did Not Originate in Wuhan Market**

Earlier this week, a group of Chinese scientists announced the coronavirus did not begin in the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market as had originally been believed. The team conducted an analysis of genomic data from 93 samples of COVID-19. The study suggested that while the virus had spread rapidly through the market, it originated from elsewhere.xiv

**Project HOPE Response**

Project HOPE is continuing to support frontline health workers in China through the shipping, procurement, and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies. HOPE is also committed to supporting countries’ preparedness efforts as the virus continues to spread globally. In addition to our procurement and gift-in-kind efforts, HOPE is also incorporating preparedness activities, such as trainings, in countries where support has been requested.

**Project HOPE and United Airlines Partner to Deliver 15 Ventilators to Hospitals in Wuhan**

On February 24, HOPE announced that United Airlines is donating funds to deliver 15 ventilators to hospitals in Hubei Province. Ventilators can help save the lives of critically ill patients with COVID-19, as it is a respiratory virus.

The HOPE team will be delivering the ventilators to 11 hospitals: Hubei Cancer Hospital, Central Hospital of Xiaogan, Central Hospital of Huanggang, Central Hospital of Suizhou, No.1 People’s Hospital of Guangshui, No.2 People’s Hospital of Guangshui, Wu Xue No. 1 People’s Hospital, No. 9 Hospital of Wuhan, Wuchang Hospital of Wuhan, Hubei Dawu Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital, and Huangmei People’s Hospital.

**Nearly Half a Million Masks to Five Hospitals in Wuhan**

HOPE is facilitating the shipment and distribution of 495,000 surgical and procedure masks donated by MAP International. The masks are expected to arrive in the coming days and will be distributed to five hospitals in Wuhan.

**PPE and Equipment Procurements**

HOPE is continuing to procure PPE from international companies and medical equipment from companies within China. The following procurements are expected to be delivered to hospitals in Wuhan and others areas of need in the coming weeks:
• 12 medical air compressors to be paired with the 
procured ventilators in hospitals that do not currently 
have air compressors
• 20 defibrillators
• 20 patient monitors
• 1,500 masks and 500 face shields
• More than 2,100 surgical gowns

Pandemic Preparedness
In addition to our work in China, HOPE teams worldwide are 
working to prepare countries and communities that are 
particularly vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19. In the 
Balkans, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Colombia and other high-risk 
environments, HOPE is identifying critical areas for support 
given context-specific needs and is ready to assist. 
Programmatic areas could include: training trainers on 
infection, prevention and control to protect nurses and other 
frontline health workers; advising on policy development and 
interagency coordination and planning for governments; and 
supporting health outreach workers to conduct community-
based surveillance, reporting and contact tracing.
SOURCES

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