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INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Coronavirus Information - 2/7/2020

Alert

On Jan. 30, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO - <https://www.who.int/>) declared a new coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advises that the immediate risk to the American public remains low. Travel bans to and from China and quarantine of return visitors are designed to control the spread of the virus.

The Virus

The Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in January, 2020. It is not that same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold. It is more like two other coronaviruses that cause serious respiratory illnesses; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) first identified in southern China in 2002.

The Scope and Spread of the Virus

As of this date there are nearly 40,500 confirmed cases and more than 900 deaths, 99% of which have been confined to China. There have been 97 deaths outside of China. There are now confirmed cases in 28 countries, including 12 confirmed cases in the United States. The virus is being spread from person to person, with an average of 5 days before symptoms appear. The numbers listed here are rapidly changing.

Protection from the Virus

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The CDC recommends prevention practices for ANY virus:

- Wash your hands several times daily with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are showing signs of illness (sneezing, nasal secretions, coughing, fever, chills, aches, fatigue).
- Stay home when you are sick
- Frequently clean and disinfect touched objects and surfaces (work and food tables, radios, cell phones, computer keyboards, touch screens, resuscitation devices, rescue tubes, whistles, railings, sinks).



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World Health Organization (WHO) Resources

The World Health Organization has urged countries around the world to remain vigilant and strengthen readiness to rapidly detect any case of importation of the new coronavirus and prevent its spread. WHO updates its website daily and has developed many resources to help you understand the current situation regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Key information includes:

- [Advice for the general public and sharable graphics](#) – basic protective measure information including hand washing and respiratory hygiene
- [Situation reports](#) – the latest number of reported confirmed cases and locations
- [Travel advice](#) – updated WHO advice for international traffic
- [Technical guidance](#) – country readiness, risk communication and community engagement, laboratory guidance, and more
- [Coronavirus Q&A](#) – information about the novel coronavirus, how to protect yourself, who is at risk, and more