

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS

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General assignment reporter

Running a fever, coughing and dealing with a runny nose are common symptoms of a virus known as the common cold, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]. This bug we deal with every day is part of a larger virus family known as coronavirus.

The particular strain hitting China and other parts of the world was named the 2019 novel coronavirus. Some more severe coronaviruses include Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The new strain of coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China and is linked to an outbreak that

has now spread to at least 28 countries around the world, according to the CDC. It is also reportedly in five states in the United States. Symptoms for this particular strain include fever, cough and shortness of breath. These symptoms can appear anywhere from two to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

According to an article in the New York Times, more than 300 people died from the virus and there are more than 14,000 cases recorded worldwide.

The WHO declared the spread of the novel coronavirus an international public health emergency on Jan. 30. The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs announced a travel ban on Jan. 31 to China. The ban took effect Sunday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.

In the United States, there are eight cases:

reportedly confirmed: six in California, two in Illinois and one in Arizona, Washington and Massachusetts, according to local health authorities

The Associated Press reported 195 Americans were flown from Wuhan and taken to a military base in California for three days of testing and monitoring to ensure they do not show any signs of the virus. The plane left China early on Jan. 28; its passengers will continue to be monitored for up to 14 days.

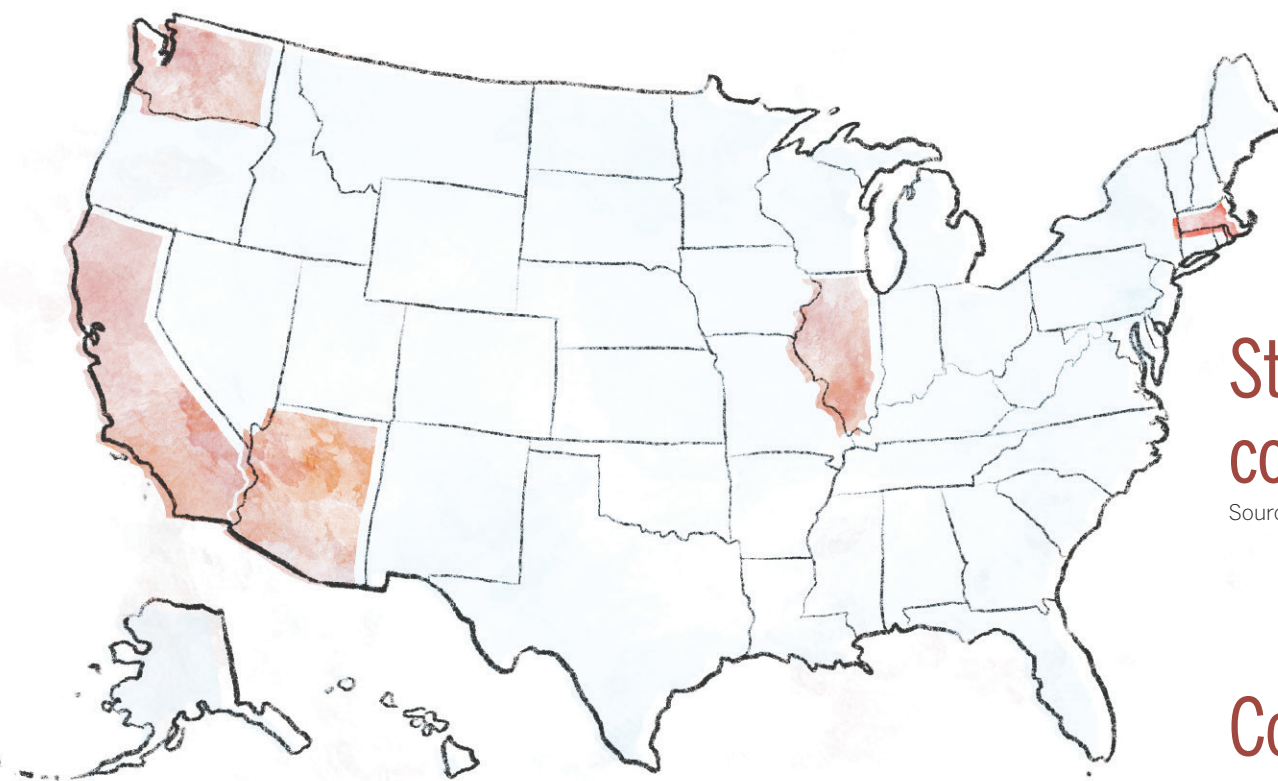
There are no confirmed cases in Ohio, but two students at Miami University were tested after one of the students started showing symptoms after returning from a trip to China. An official from the Butler County Health Department announced Sunday the tests were negative for coronavirus.

The Cleveland Clinic released a statement

regarding its coronavirus preparation that stated it is following updates from the CDC and WHO and has added an extra screening question "to identify patients who have recently traveled to China."

Eric Mansfield, executive director of university media relations, said there are "no persons under investigation at Kent State or in Portage County for the coronavirus" and that officials at Kent State are monitoring the situation.

"In response to the public health concern over coronavirus, the university is working closely with the Ohio Department of Health, the Portage County Health District and the Kent City Health District, as all of those agencies are monitoring the spread of the virus," Mansfield said. "So we will continue to work with these public health



States with confirmed coronavirus cases

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Confirmed coronavirus cases around the world

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

China	Italy	Thailand
Hong Kong	Japan	The Republic of Korea
Macau	Spain	United Arab Emirates
Taiwan	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Australia	Nepal	United States
Cambodia	Philippines	Vietnam
Canada	Russia	
Finland	Sri Lanka	
France	Singapore	
Germany	Spain	
India	Sweden	

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

A: The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

Q: What is a novel coronavirus?

A: A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified.

Q: What is the source of 2019-nCoV?

A: Public health officials and partners are working hard to identify the source of the 2019-nCoV. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Analysis of the genetic tree of this virus is ongoing to know the specific source of the virus.

Q: How does the virus spread?

A: This virus probably originated from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

Q: What are the symptoms and complications that 2019-nCoV can cause?

A: Current symptoms reported for patients with 2019-nCoV have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Q: Am I at risk for 2019-nCoV infection in the United States?

A: This is a rapidly evolving situation and the risk assessment may change daily. The latest updates are available on CDC's 2019 Novel Coronavirus website.

agencies for, you know, the most up-to-date information and [to] ensure we're as prepared as we can be, should their virus reach our immediate area."

In an email to students, faculty and staff at the university, Lamar Hylton, interim vice president for student affairs, and Julie Volcheck, interim assistant vice president for student affairs, offered preventive tips and resources like the DeWeese Health Center. Some of the tips include washing hands with soap and water, covering one's mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing and avoiding contact with people who are sick.

Jef Davis, associate director of international student and scholar services, said the Office of Global Education staff is monitoring the situation and will determine whether any changes to travel plans are warranted regarding the Kent State Xi'an Summer Institute. The Xi'an program is a four-week summer program that gives students the opportunity to study abroad in China.

Overall, Mansfield said he hopes people will stay informed and that if anyone starts to have some of these symptoms "they [should] know that health care professionals here are prepared to help them."

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Prevention Tips

Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid contact with people who are sick.

Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.

Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

Clean your door knobs/light switches and areas commonly touched with disinfectant wipes frequently.

Illustrations by Katie Herring