# February 1st, 2020 Novel Coronavirus Announcement

* President Trump took decisive action to minimize the risk of the spread of Novel Coronavirus in the United States.
* Since taking office, President Trump has been clear. His top priority is the safety of the American people.
* The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services has declared that the novel coronavirus presents a Public Health Emergency in the United States.
* Additionally, the President has signed a Presidential Proclamation using his authority pursuant to Section 212 (f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act suspending the entry into the United States of foreign nationals who pose a risk of transmitting the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
* Beginning 5 p.m. EST, Sunday, February 2, 2020 the U.S. Government will implement temporary measures to increase our abilities to detect and contain the novel coronavirus proactively and aggressively.
	+ Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been in Hubei province in the previous 14 days will be subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine, to ensure they’re provided proper medical care and health screening.
	+ Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been in the rest of mainland China within the previous 14 days, will undergo proactive entry health screening at a select number of ports of entry up to 14 days of monitored self-quarantine to ensure they’ve not contracted the virus and do not pose a public health risk.
* As a result, foreign nationals, other than immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, who have traveled in China within the last 14 days, will be denied entry into the United States.
* These actions will decrease the strain on public health officials screening incoming travelers, expedite the processing of U.S. citizens returning from China, and ensure resources are focused on the health and safety of the American people.
* The risk of infection for Americans remains low and all agencies are working aggressively to monitor this continuously evolving situation and to keep the public informed.
* We realize these measures could provide added stress and prolong travel times for some individuals
* Public health and security experts agree these measures are necessary to contain the virus and protect the American people.
* The United States appreciates China’s efforts and coordination with public health officials across the globe and continues to encourage the highest levels of transparency.
* It is likely that we will continue to see more cases in the United States in the coming days and weeks, including some limited person-to-person transmission.
* The American public can be assured, the full weight of the U.S. Government, in close coordination with state and local officials, is working to safeguard the health and safety of the American people,

**Airline Flight Cancelations**

* The State Department travel advisory does not prohibit airlines from flying to or from China.
* However, we are aware that U.S. companies are independently making the decision to reduce services between United States and China.
* The White House did not call the airlines and hasn’t asked for a suspension of flights between the U.S. and China.

**Level 4 Travel Advisory China**

* The United States is advising American citizens not to travel to China.

* Those already in China should leave as soon as it is safe to do so.
* If you do travel to China, you will be subject to additional screening and public health measures upon return the United States.
* We continue to closely monitor the situation in China and will revise our travel advisory as conditions warrant.

**Status of New Confirmed Cases**

* The total number of infections in the U.S. is 11 patients in five states, AZ, CA, IL, WA, and MA.
* The most recent confirmed case involves a patient recently returned from Wuhan, China.
* It is likely that we will continue to see more cases in the United States in the coming days and weeks, including some limited person-to-person transmission.

**Future Charter Flights**

* The U.S. government is coordinating closely with the PRC government to deliver humanitarian assistance to and evacuate additional U.S. citizens from Wuhan.
* The Department of Defense is prepared to provide housing support for people on these flights.

**January 28, 2020 Charter Flight**

* The U.S. Government has repatriated 195 U.S. Citizens from Wuhan.

* These people departed Wuhan, China by charter flight January 28th 2020.

* All passengers were screened for symptoms multiple times by both U.S. and Chinese authorities prior to boarding.

* Medical professionals continuously monitored the health of all passengers throughout the flight.

* All passengers briefly disembarked during a refueling stop in Anchorage, AK, where they were rescreened for symptoms, monitored by medical professionals, and kept separated from the public.

* Upon arrival in California, all passengers were subject to CDC screening, health observation, and monitoring requirements.
* On January 31st, 2020 passengers were made subject to a 14 day mandatory quarantine to ensure they’re provided proper medical care and health screening.
* This mandatory quarantine period includes time passengers have already spent at March Air Reserve Base.
* Our goal is to complete the health screening activities in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all passengers and the people of the United States.
* We thank all passengers and their families for their cooperation, patience, and understanding.
* We thank state and local officials for their support

**Task Force**

* On January 29, 2020 President Trump announced the formation of the President’s Coronavirus Task Force.
* The Task Force is led by Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar and is coordinated through the National Security Council.
* The Task Force is composed of subject matter experts from the White House and several United States Government agencies.
* The Task force also includes some of the Nation’s foremost experts on infectious diseases.
* The Task Force will lead the Administration’s efforts to monitor, contain, and mitigate the spread of the virus, while ensuring that the American people have the most accurate and up-to-date health and travel information.
* The Task Force will also ensure close coordination with State and local officials.

**What CDC are Doing**

* They have a multi-layered, cross-agency public health response to protect the American public.
	+ Airport screening – facilitates early diagnosis and isolation
	+ Educating the public and medical community – facilitated detection of potential cases within the United States
* CDC have activated its Emergency Operations Center and begun using public health measures, including enhanced entry screening, as part of our aggressive public health response strategy.
* Based on evolving information from China, CDC have reassessed the current entry screening strategy and will now expand advanced screening capacity from the original five airports to all 20 quarantine stations in the United States.

**Questions about China’s Response**

* China has accepted the United States’ offer to incorporate a group of experts into a World Health Organization mission to China to learn more about and combat the virus.
* The actions we are taking complement the work of China and the WHO to contain the outbreak in China.

* The United States appreciates China’s efforts and continued coordination with public health officials across the globe.
* We extend our deepest compassion to the people of China during this very difficult time

**Biodefense Strategy**

* Last year, President Trump made biodefense a priority and implemented the first ever National Biodefense Strategy to improve speed of action in situations like this, and we are seeing that strategy pay dividends now.
* CDC is accessing additional funding for the most urgent and immediate needs including surge support for ports of entry, enhanced laboratory capacity, and technical assistance.

**International Engagement**

* We are concerned about the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, and are closely monitoring the situation with our international partners.
* Increased volume of air traffic between Africa and China, compared with the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, underscores our sense of urgency in helping our African partners.
* Global health security is a top priority for the United States, as shown by our unparalleled support to public health in Africa, including $85 billion in the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funding since 2003.
* We share information with our African partners to ensure the best possible international preparedness for the ongoing global health emergency.
* On January 31st, 2020 Dr. Redfield of CDC and Dr. Fauci of the NIH briefed African ambassadors on the outbreak, the President’s task force on coronavirus, and suggestions for domestic response.