



Wuhan Coronavirus Update 27 January

Executive Summary

All travel to Hubei Province is advised against, clients should also reconsider non-essential travel to China due to the growing number of travel restrictions and contagion cases. Be aware that many businesses in China remain closed and restrictions on domestic public transport are in effect.

Assessment

The novel coronavirus outbreak termed “2019-novel coronavirus” and known as Wuhan Coronavirus continues to spread throughout China and, to a limited degree, abroad. In China, provinces with a notable number of cases include Hubei (where the virus originated) with over 1000 contagions, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Henan, Chongqing and Hunan (all with over 100 cases). There is ongoing human-to-human transmission inside China, with breaking, but unconfirmed, reports of human-to-human transmission outside of mainland China.

On 22 January, the World Health Organisation has stated that, at this time, the outbreak does not constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), but the Committee members agreed on the urgency of the situation and suggested that the Committee should be reconvened in a matter of days to examine the situation further.

There are currently multiple travel restrictions in place throughout China. Hubei Province, including Wuhan, has been quarantined with all public transport, businesses and schools shut down. Flights in and out of Wuhan have been completely suspended until at least 4 February. Many businesses in China have suspended reopening after the Lunar New Year holiday until at least 9 February, with schools also remaining closed until at least the middle of February; other cities are set to extend the spring holidays by at least 2 days.

Many cities have set up health checkpoints to check people’s temperatures. Major tourist sites, Disney Land and cinemas are all closed while public transport between multiple cities is also being restricted. Those in Wuhan, as well as Yichang, are required by law to wear a face mask whilst in public; other cities are likely to announce similar measures in the coming days and weeks. Despite restrictions in many places, public transport is still operating within many cities.

Current Statistics					
Current Total Infected	2,886	Total confirmed Deaths	81	Total Confirmed Recoveries	59
Current Total Infected Outside China	64	Deaths outside of China	0		
Countries with infections outside of China	Thailand (10), Hong Kong (10), US, Taiwan, Australia, Macau (all 5), Singapore, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia (all 4), France (3), Canada, Vietnam (both 2), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1; unconfirmed)				
Travel Restrictions (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)					
China	Complete “quarantine” (no movements in and out of the city & airport shutdown)		Wuhan		
	Restrictions on movement and public transport		Hubei Province		
	Restrictions on public transport services (i.e. long distance bus services, ride hailing services, inter-city travel)		Beijing, Tianjin city, Xi’an, Hebei Province and Shanghai		
International	At this time, travel to and from China remains possible, however, enhanced screening is in effect, should travel restrictions begin to be implemented, information will be listed here.				

Solace Global Advice

- Solace Global advises against all travel to Hubei Province due to travel restrictions currently in place and the current outbreak
- Solace Global advises clients to reconsider non-essential travel to wider China, Hong Kong and Macau. Travel restrictions, both within the country and to and from home countries may be implemented with little or no notice.
- Continue to monitor the situation closely, further travel restrictions, both in China and internationally, may be announced at any time.
- Do not travel if ill, as you may be subject to additional screening and delays.

If travelling to China:

- Strictly monitor all updates via media, Chinese and other government authorities and Solace Secure.
- Make use of Solace traveller tracking on the Solace Secure App; check-in when you land, daily and following any location changes.
- Avoid large groups of people or those who are obviously sick.
- Always maintain a good hygiene level and wear a surgical mask whilst in public places, wash hands regularly.
- Travellers and residents should be aware that the Chinese government could prevent them from entering or exiting parts of Chinese provinces.
- Travellers and residents should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice.
- Ensure all food and eggs are thoroughly cooked.