



Wuhan Coronavirus Update 28 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, confirmed cases and government warnings. Be aware that many businesses in China remain closed and restrictions on domestic public transport are in effect.

Assessment

The recent coronavirus outbreak, termed “2019-novel coronavirus” and known as Wuhan Coronavirus, has seen a jump in confirmed cases between 27-28 January. There are now over 4,000 cases in China, with over 2,700 cases in Hubei Province alone. More than 47,000 close contacts of infected people have been traced with the vast majority under observation. In China, cases have been confirmed in every province on the mainland, except for Tibet, as well as the autonomous regions of Hong Kong and Macau. However, at this time, the confirmed growth in case numbers outside China in the past 24 hours has been limited, with only one additional case bringing the total to 65, with a further confirmed case in Sri Lanka. Japan has reported its first confirmed case which is not linked to travel to China has occurred.

On Monday, 27 January, the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued a level 3 alert (the highest alert on its scale) warning against "all nonessential travel to China." The United States Department of State have also issued a level 3 (out of 4) warning advising to reconsider travel. Taiwan has also joined the US in advising against all but essential travel to mainland China. Many international companies are also restricting employee travel to China amid the outbreak.

It has also been announced, on Tuesday 28 January, that China would begin denying travel permits for certain visitors from the Chinese mainland to Hong Kong. Additionally, cross border rail links and the West Kowloon High Speed Link will cease, while cross-border ferries and shuttles will be halved with as many as 700 flights between the SAR and other Chinese airports potentially being cut. Those commuting inside of the city have also been urged to wear masks.

In China, restrictions remain in place in Wuhan, which is fully quarantined. Air and land transport in the Hubei region remain restricted. The majority of tourist sites and many entertainment venues are closed in the country. Many cities have set up health checkpoints to monitor people’s temperatures. Businesses and schools are also set to remain closed for at least two days beyond the end of the Lunar New Year holiday. Wuhan, Yichang and other cities have begun making it mandatory to wear surgical face masks in public. These measures are likely to be announced in other cities in the coming days and weeks. While public transport is still operating within many cities, temperature checks and quarantine zones are becoming commonplace. These measures do appear to be mostly precautionary at this time.

Current Statistics (numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected	4,633	Suspected Cases	6,972	Total confirmed Deaths	106
Current Total Infected Outside China	65	Deaths outside of China	0	Total Confirmed Recoveries	73
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	Hong Kong (8), Thailand (14), Macau (6), Australia (5), Singapore (5), Taiwan (5), US (5), Japan (4), Malaysia (4), South Korea (4), France (3), Vietnam (2), Cambodia (1), Canada (1), Germany (1), Ivory Coast (1), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1)				
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, Hong Kong SAR			
	Limited 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 currently in or travelling to China:

- Strictly monitor all updates via both local and international 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 China.
- 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.