



CORONAVIRUS BULLETIN

Significant disease outbreak update

MARCH 12TH, 2020

General Update

The following bulletin will be a change of format compared to the previous IMG Coronavirus Bulletins. As the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 enters a new phase and in an effort to provide the latest information, future updates will be shorter and more focused on this rapidly evolving situation.

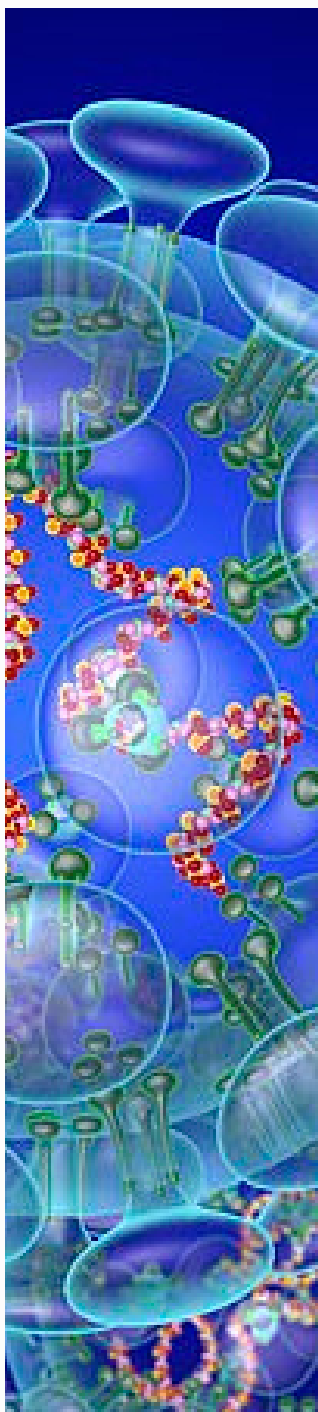
We will continue to issue other documents designed to help our clients and members in their own response to this pandemic.

As with all bulletins, the data quoted below and the conclusions drawn are likely to change somewhat as the situation evolves.

In the last 24 hours, there have been a series of significant developments:

WHO define the current outbreak as a Pandemic

WHO's characterisation of COVID-19 as a pandemic was accompanied by a very careful message from the Director-General: the characterisation does not change either the WHO assessment of the threat or the responses required. It was stressed that all countries can still change the course of the outbreak, and the priorities remain to detect, test, isolate and treat cases, and trace contacts. It does not represent a shift from containment to mitigation, and WHO urges that containment is still the priority, pointing out that 81 countries have no cases, and 57 have 10 or fewer cases, and that 90% of the global cases are in 4 countries. WHO also underlined the significantly declining epidemics in China and South Korea.



Global Response

U.S. suspends entry of foreign nationals from European countries

Yesterday, President Trump signed a Presidential Proclamation that suspends the entry of most foreign nationals who have been in certain European countries at any point during the 14 days prior to their scheduled arrival to the United States. These countries, known as the Schengen Area, include: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. This does not apply to legal permanent residents, (generally) immediate family members of U.S. citizens, and other individuals who are identified in the proclamation.

Italy closes all shops except food stores and chemists

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said bars, restaurants, hairdressers, and non-essential company departments would also close. At present, visitors to the country are able to travel home but several airlines have suspended flights for up to a month.

U.K. COBRA Emergency Committee move towards a 'delay' strategy

The U.K. government's COBRA Emergency Committee met today. They have announced that the current phase of the pandemic in the U.K. is causing the government to move to a "delay" strategy. Although the policy of contact tracing and isolation will continue, interventions designed to delay the community spread of the virus will be put into place. The aim is to slow the spread, reduce the immediate burden on the health service, and allow time for intensive care capacity to be increased.

Social controls are expected to predominate in this phase and may include curtailment of public gatherings, school and college closures, and asking companies to enable home working.

In a press briefing today, both the Prime Minister and the Chief Medical Advisor stressed the importance of the timing of the response for maximum impact.

Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony S. Fauci warns against complacency

On Wednesday, U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director, Anthony S. Fauci, warned against complacency at a hearing on Capitol Hill saying, "If we are complacent and don't do really aggressive containment and mitigation, the number could go way up and be involved in many, many millions."

Case Numbers



With total cases at approximately 127,000, the active cases are around 55,000 and recovered cases are near 67,000 (mostly in China); 70% of those active cases are outside China.

Italy, Iran, and South Korea now account for over 29,000 total cases, up from 20,000 just yesterday. Deaths now total over 4,700 globally and of the deaths outside mainland China, 75% have been in Italy and Iran.

Note: the deaths in Korea are 60, representing a much lower proportion of the identified cases, presumably because of the very successful drive to identify community cases.

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Case data from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)
at Johns Hopkins University (JHU)