


← → ↻

who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen

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Apps FMS New Tab English Dictionary... English Indonesian... Viscose Rayon Jadi... Viscose-Rayon: Nex... Cara Penulisan Daft... HIMKI Indonesia

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Health Topics ▾

Countries ▾

Newsroom ▾

Emergencies ▾

About Us ▾

Summary

- A pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan, China was first reported to the WHO Country Office in China on 31 December 2019.
- WHO is working 24/7 to analyse data, provide advice, coordinate with partners, help countries prepare, increase supplies and manage expert networks.
- The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020.
- The international community has asked for US\$675 million to help protect states with weaker health systems as part of its Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.
- On 11 February 2020, WHO announced a name for the new coronavirus disease: COVID-19.
- To stay up to date, follow [@DrTedros](#) and

WHO characterizes COVID-19 as a pandemic

11 March 2020

Speaking at the COVID-19 media briefing, the WHO Director-General said:

"WHO has been assessing this outbreak around the clock and we are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction.

We have therefore made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic.

Pandemic is not a word to use lightly or carelessly. It is a word that, if misused, can cause unreasonable fear, or unjustified acceptance that the fight is over, leading to unnecessary suffering and death.

Describing the situation as a pandemic does not change WHO's assessment of the threat posed by this virus. It doesn't change what WHO is doing, and it doesn't change what countries should do.

We have never before seen a pandemic sparked by a coronavirus. This is the first pandemic caused by a coronavirus.

And we have never before seen a pandemic that can be controlled, at the same time."

Source: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>