

### **Latest Situation Report: 31st January 2200 Hrs**

Two members of the same family in the UK have tested positive for the Wuhan coronavirus, England's chief medical officer has confirmed.

The eighty-three British passengers who landed at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire earlier today and have been transferred to an accommodation block at Arrowe Park hospital in Wirral, where they will be quarantined for 14 days, monitored and treated if any symptoms develop.

A plan to evacuate Australians stranded in China is likely to go ahead over the weekend, the AAP news agency is reporting.

The US government will ban foreigners who have been in China for the past 14 days and impose a quarantine on travellers of any nationality from the province where the new coronavirus epidemic broke out.

The measures, which take effect at 22:00 on Sunday (Lisbon time), were announced today by the Secretary of Health, Alex Azar, who declared a public health emergency due to the spread of the virus.

Russia has reported its first two cases of coronavirus. Russia's deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova told reporters the infected people were Chinese citizens who had been isolated.

A businessman who had taken a trip to China, is in São João Hospital, Porto with suspected coronavirus case. The patient is in isolation for analysis and the results are expected to be known on Saturday morning.

The director-general of Health stated on 31<sup>st</sup> that "We are studying hourly. This is an 'online' epidemic," said Graça Freitas today at a press conference at the headquarters of the Directorate-General for Health (DGS), in Lisbon.

"Our level of alertness and readiness has obviously increased and the need to reinforce the responsiveness of services and society with public health measures is increasing, to make confinement or containment [of the outbreak]," she told reporters.

At the airports there will be posters with information for travellers on how to act if they have symptoms of the disease (cough, fever or difficulty breathing) and have travelled from the affected Chinese region or have been in contact with sick people.

### **Latest situation Report 31st January 1500 hrs**

The Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary (DGAV) remains "alert" to the new coronavirus and noted that the entry into Portugal of live animals, goods and products from countries where the disease was detected.

"In Portugal, the risk of entry of the virus is mainly associated with the movement of people, namely the inflows of travellers from China and other countries where the disease has already been identified. However, the entry of live animals, goods and / or products (foodstuffs and animal feed) from those countries will have to be taken care off", warned DGAV, in a note published on its website.

Portuguese border inspection posts receive ships with containers from China and neighbouring countries, so DGAV recommends that employees use personal protective equipment, a protective mask and gloves.

On the other hand, this national veterinary authority advised the posts to implement a pest control plan.

DGAV “remains alert” in the face of this situation and is in “close liaison” with national public health authorities, as well as with those responsible for wildlife, in order to guarantee “coherent and risky communication messages and risk management.

### **Latest Situation Report 30th January 2200 Hrs**

The new coronavirus has been declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization, as the outbreak continues to spread outside China.

“The main reason for this declaration is not what is happening in China but what is happening in other countries,” said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The concern is that it could spread to countries with weaker health systems.

The death toll now stands at 170 people in China.

The WHO said there had been 98 cases in 18 countries outside of the country, but no deaths.

There have been eight cases of human-to-human infection – in Germany, Japan, Vietnam and the United States.

Lufthansa, British Airways, Air Canada and Indonesia’s Lion Air have cancelled all of their flights, whilst others are reducing services.

The Portuguese consul in the Chinese city of Quangzhou today advised the Portuguese living in southern China to leave temporarily, after several airlines have cancelled or reduced flights from the country.

“Given the spread of the virus, and in order to avoid future difficulties that may occur as a result of flight cancellations, it is considered opportune for Portuguese citizens in the Consulate’s area of jurisdiction to consider leaving China temporarily,” said André Sobral Cordeiro, in a message shared via Wechat, the Chinese Whatsapp.

The Portuguese diplomat confirmed to Lusa the content of the message, pointing out the growing number of airlines that are cancelling or reducing the number of flights to and from China.

In total, ten airlines adopted those measures, including British British Airlines, German Lufthansa or American American Airlines.

The jurisdiction of the consulate in Guangzhou is Guangdong, Hainan, Hunan, Fujian and the Guangxi Autonomous Region. In total, about 200 Portuguese live in this area, according to estimates by the consulate.

On 30<sup>th</sup> January Malaysia arrested five persons for uploading false information about coronavirus by uploading false information about coronavirus on social media. Premier Mahathir Mohamad earlier warned Malaysians against spreading disinformation about the deadly virus.

Around 200 US citizens have been flown out of Wuhan and are being isolated at a Californian military base for at least 72 hours

**Russia** has decided to close its 4,300km (2,670-mile) far-eastern border with China in an attempt to prevent contagion

Six thousand people on board a cruise ship in in **Italy** were barred from disembarking after a Chinese passenger was suspected of having coronavirus; however initial tests came back as negative

Flights to take **British** and **South Korean** citizens out of Wuhan have both been delayed, after relevant permissions from the Chinese authorities did not come through

Two flights to **Japan** have already landed in Tokyo. Three passengers have so far tested positive for the virus, Japanese media report

#### **Latest situation 29th January 1700 hrs**

A plane evacuating 201 Americans from the Chinese city at the centre of the virus outbreak has arrived at a southern California military base after everyone on board passed a health screening test in Anchorage, where the aircraft had stopped to refuel

The World Health Organization's emergency committee will meet on Thursday 30th Jan, the third time in a week, to evaluate whether the new coronavirus spreading from China constitutes an international emergency, the WHO said.

Finland has announced its first confirmed case of coronavirus, in a tourist from Wuhan who was visiting Lapland

130 people have tested negative in the UK for coronavirus, according to the latest update from the Department of Health and Social Care.

UNICEF said it had shipped six tonnes of protective masks and protective suits to Shanghai to protect health workers. "This coronavirus is spreading at a breakneck speed and it is important to put all the necessary resources into halting it," said UNICEF's executive director, Henrietta Fore.

Seventeen Portuguese citizens in China, almost all in the Chinese region of Wuhan, have already asked to leave the country due to the outbreak of the new coronavirus, a European source told Lusa today, citing data from the Portuguese government.

The city government also said it had rejected 832 visitors from Hubei province after it imposed a ban on travellers from the virus-stricken province on Monday, while 280 Hongkongers stranded there had asked for help.

#### **Latest situation 29th January 0800 HRS**

The number of confirmed cases of has overtaken the 2003 SARS outbreak inside of mainland China, as multiple countries evacuated their citizens from the city at the heart of the outbreak.

As of Wednesday, there were 5,974 confirmed cases of the virus in mainland China, including 132 deaths, according to China's National Health Commission (NHC). The number of cases grew by almost 1,500 from Tuesday, a more than 30% increase. The figures do not include Hong Kong and Macau, both of which have reported a small number of cases.

There have been more than 80 cases of the virus reported outside mainland China, bringing the worldwide total to over 6,000.

The United Arab Emirates on Wednesday confirmed the first cases in the Middle East of the new coronavirus.

Britain is finalising plans to evacuate its nationals from the coronavirus-hit Chinese province of Hubei. Flights taking Britons back home could begin as early as Thursday.

British Airways has suspended all direct flights to and from mainland China, following travel advice from the Foreign Office that warned against all but essential travel to the country due to the coronavirus outbreak.

BA.com, the airline's website, shows no direct flights to China are available in January and February, Reuters reports.

"We apologise to customers for the inconvenience, but the safety of our customers and crew is always our priority," BA said in an emailed statement on Wednesday. "Customers due to travel to or from China in the coming days can find more information on BA.com."

### **Latest Situation 28th January 2300 HRS**

The disease, which has killed nearly 100 people in China, has now infected four people in Bavaria. All four instances are thought to be connected to the recent visit of a Chinese work colleague to the area.

A plane carrying US diplomats and their families has departed Wuhan, China, according to a State Department spokesperson.

Hong Kong Chief Executive announced Hong Kong's new strategy to tackle the virus on Tuesday. In addition to suspending train and ferry services, flights to mainland China will be halved. People will also no longer be able to receive permits to visit Hong Kong from the mainland.

The government is finalising plans to evacuate UK nationals from the Chinese province at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak, Downing Street has said, with plans expected to be announced imminently.

"The Foreign Office is urgently exploring options for British nationals to leave Hubei province," a Downing Street spokesman said. "Details are being finalised, and the FCO will confirm these as soon as they can."

A Foreign Office update advised Britons in Hubei to ring one of two dedicated 24-hour telephone numbers before 11am on Wednesday to register their desire to be evacuated.

On Tuesday evening the FCO continue to advise against all travel to Hubei Province, and now advise against all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China (not including Hong Kong and Macao).

### **Situation 1500 HRS**

There have been 97 cases of suspected coronavirus tested in the UK, but so far no positive diagnoses.

Germany and Taiwan have reported their first cases of domestic transmission of the new coronavirus.

There have now been 45 confirmed cases in 13 countries outside of China, with no deaths so far, the WHO's spokesman, Christian Lindmeier, told a briefing in Geneva on Tuesday.

More than half a million South Koreans have signed a petition calling for a ban on people from China entering the country, Reuters report reports.

Sri Lanka suspended issuing visas on arrival to Chinese tourists as a measure to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

China urged its citizens to postpone trips abroad as the country expands a massive effort to contain a viral outbreak that has killed more than 100 people nationwide.

The travel recommendation was issued “to protect the health and safety of Chinese and foreign people”, the National Immigration Administration said in a statement.

### **Latest situation 28th January 1000 HRS**

Hong Kong – High-speed trains and ferries that cross the border will be suspended from Thursday 30th January, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam announced.

The first case of contamination by the new coronavirus detected in China has been confirmed in Germany, the Bavarian Ministry of Health announced on Monday night. This is the second European country to confirm an infection,; France has 3.

The head of the World Health Organisation has said he is confident in China’s ability to contain a new coronavirus that has killed 106 people and he called for calm, Chinese media reported.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in a meeting with State Councillor Wang Yi in Beijing, said he approved of the government’s measures to curb the outbreak, the Xinhua state news agency said. He said he did not think foreigners should be evacuated.

China’s Health Commission says that the transmission is through “respiratory droplets” (coughing then touch. Incubation is generally 3-7 days, maximum 14 days, the commission says

While more cases have been emerging outside China in people who have travelled from there recently, the WHO said only one of the overseas cases involved human-to-human transmission.

So far ten countries, including Spain are either planning, or are arranging to evacuate their nationals from Wuhan or Hubei Province

Since 20 January, the number of confirmed infections has increased from 280 to over 4,500 today