



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Update...

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

6 March 2020

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Dec 30, 2019
Cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown origin reported to China National Health Commission

Jan 7
Novel Coronavirus Isolated

Jan 13
First international case (Thailand)

Jan 20
HCW cases
Evidence of human-to-human transmission

Jan 29
6065 cases
132 deaths
15 countries

Jan 30
PHEIC Declared

Feb 12
45,171 Cases
1115 Deaths
25 Countries

Jan 1
Hunan Seafood Market Closed

Jan 12
Named as '2019n-CoV'
WGS shared with WHO

Jan 25
Chinese New Year Festivities cancelled

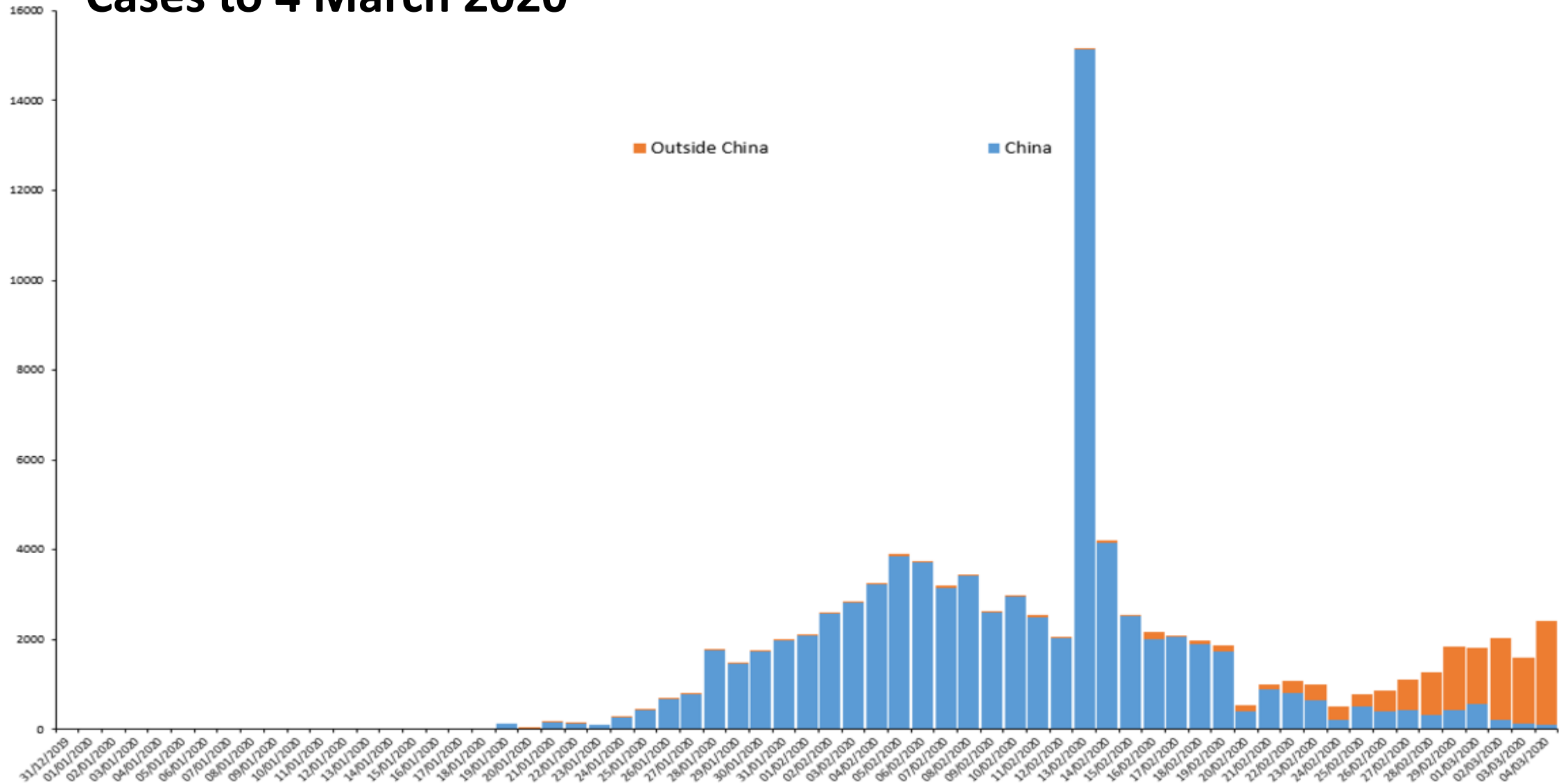
Lockdown extended to 16 cities – 50m people

Jan 23
Public transport 'lockdown' Wuhan & other cities in Hubei
Outbound flights stopped

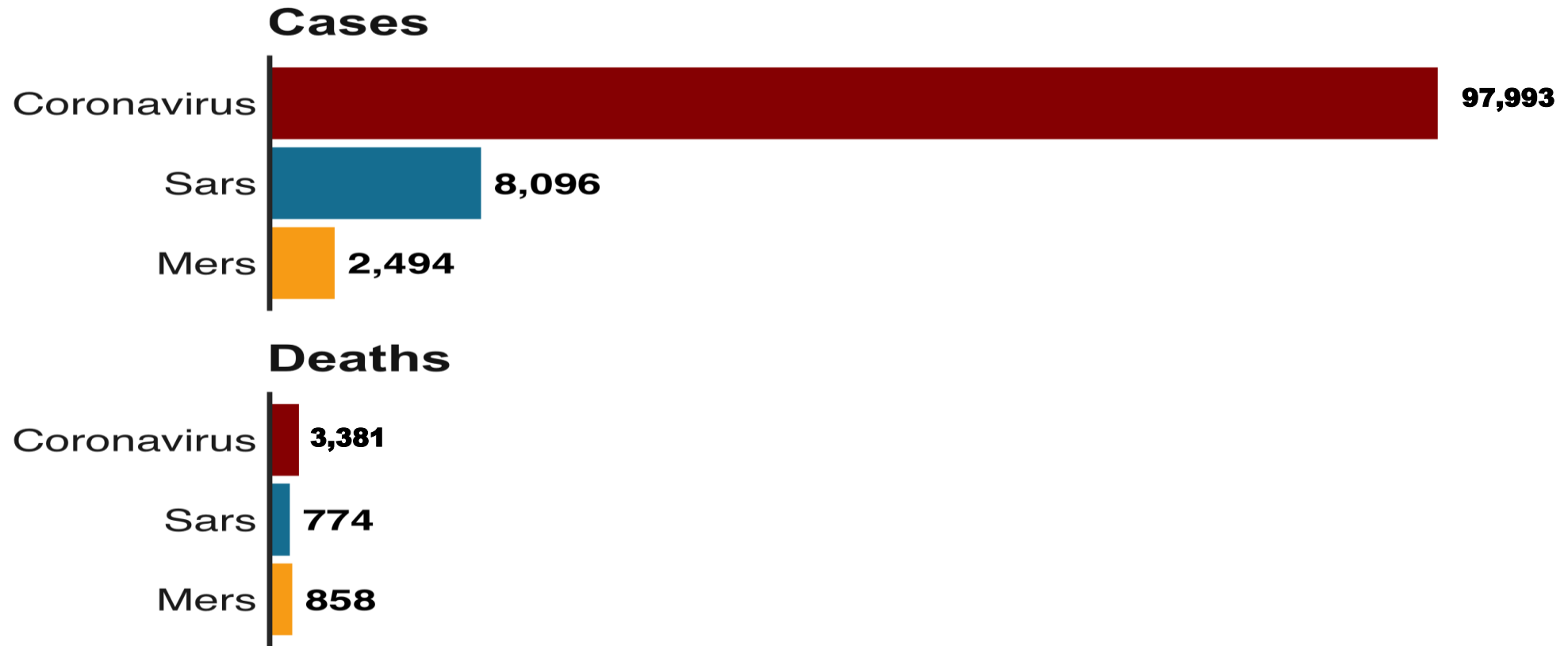
Case Definition Changed

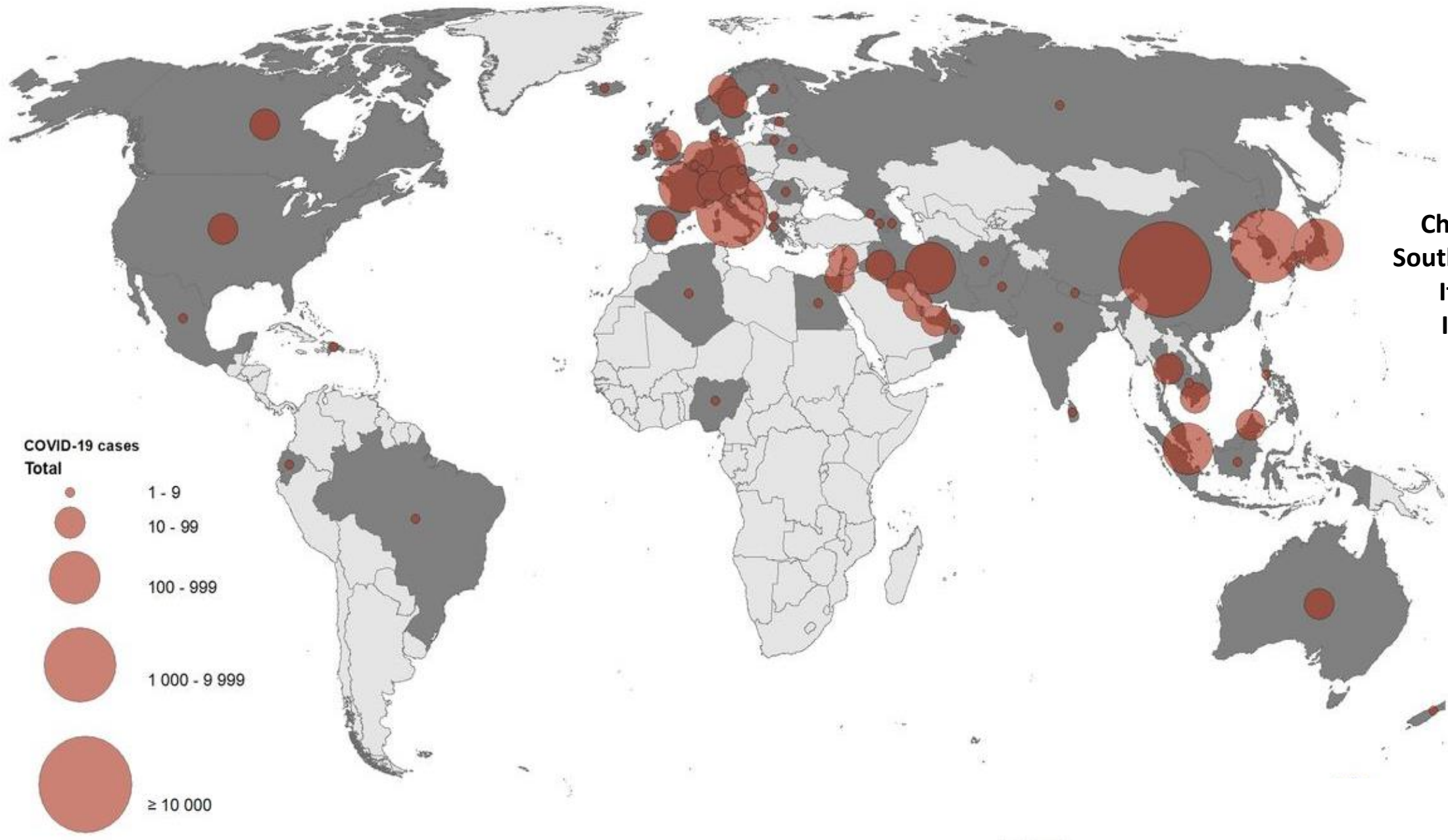
March 6
97,993 Cases
3,381 Deaths
87 Countries

Cases to 4 March 2020



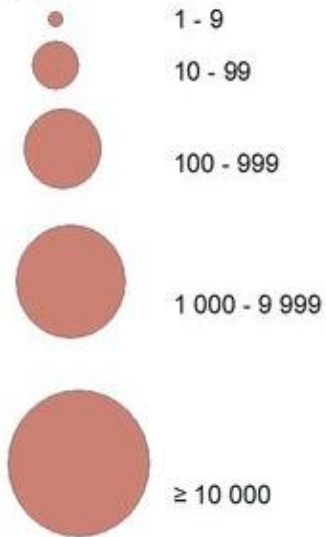
Comparison with previous outbreaks





China 80,422
South Korea 5328
Italy 2502
Iran 2336

COVID-19 cases
Total



Cases 4 March 2020

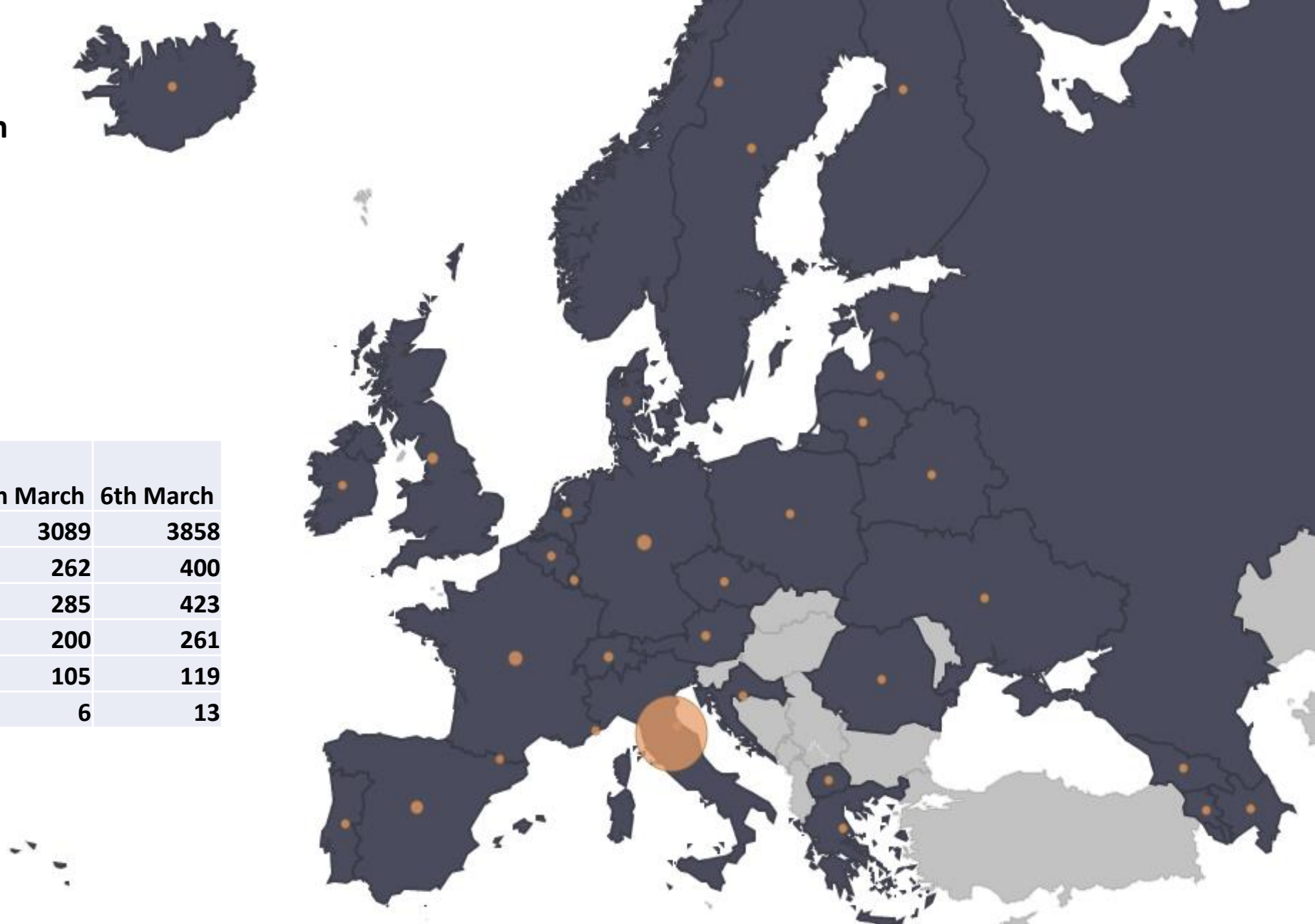


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Cases in WHO European Region 6 March 2020

39 countries
5,569 cases
158 deaths

	2nd March	4th March	5th March	6th March
Italy	1689	2502	3089	3858
Germany	129	240	262	400
France	100	212	285	423
Spain	42	151	200	261
UK	36	89	105	119
Ireland	1	2	6	13





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What do we know about the COVID-19?

One of a family of 7 coronaviruses (MERS, SARS)

Zoonotic – transmit from animals to humans

**Transmission – respiratory droplets via
Coughing/Sneezing
Surfaces**

**Case Fatality Rate ~2% (1 in 50 people)
China, outside Hubei Province = 0.7%**



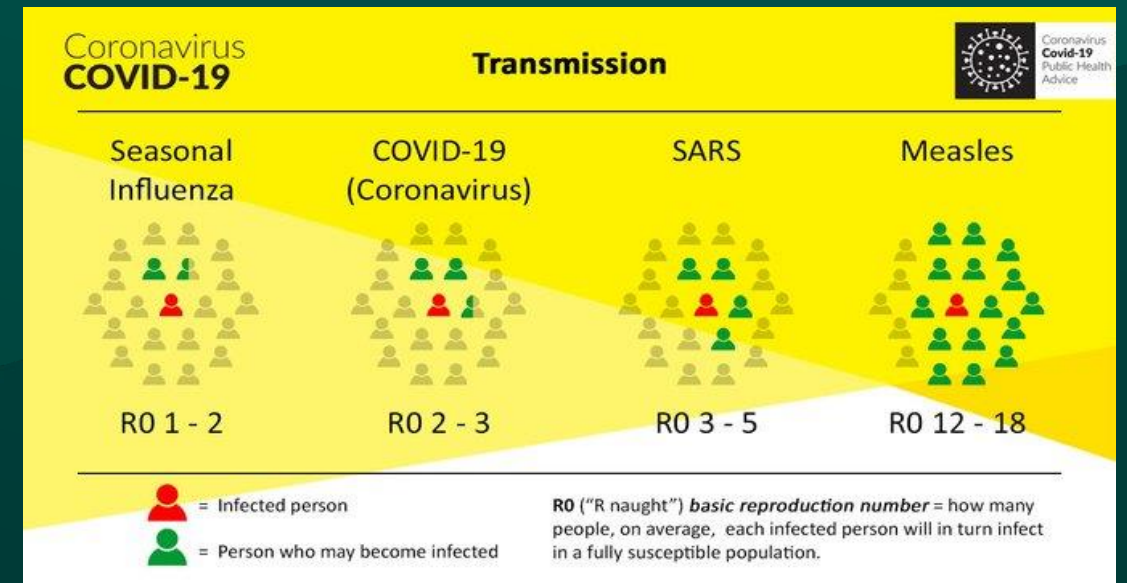
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How infectious is Covid-19?

R0 2.2 – an average 2 additional people are infected by each person who is infected

Emerging evidence from China - Largely within household contacts

In China, at most 1 in 20 close contacts were cases themselves





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Who is at risk?

In the 14 days before the start of symptoms you:

- Were in close contact with a confirmed or probable case OR
- Stayed in an area with presumed community transmission

<https://youtu.be/ozQR7EU8TXY>

China, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Iran, Japan, 4 Italian Regions



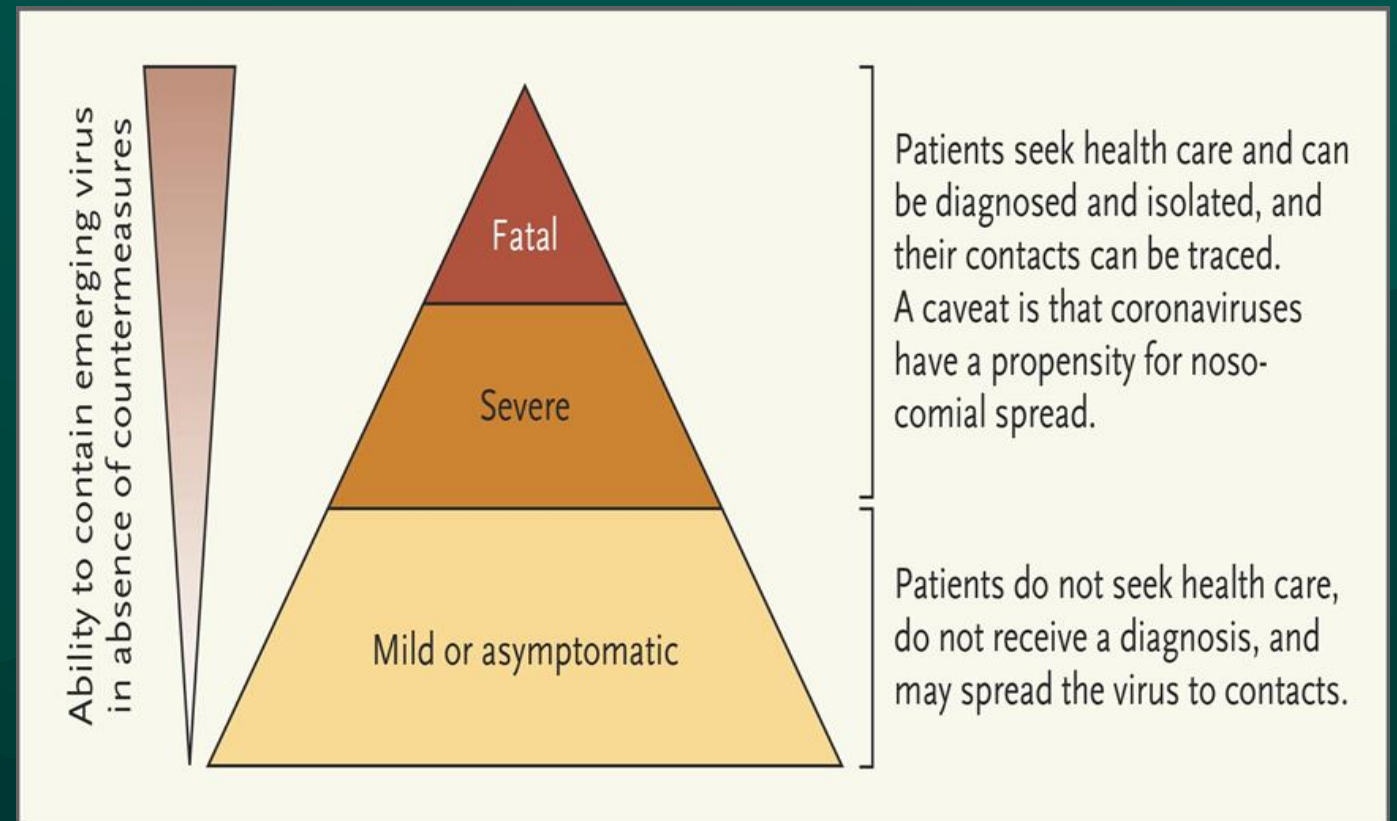
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What don't we know about COVID-19?

Animal source unclear

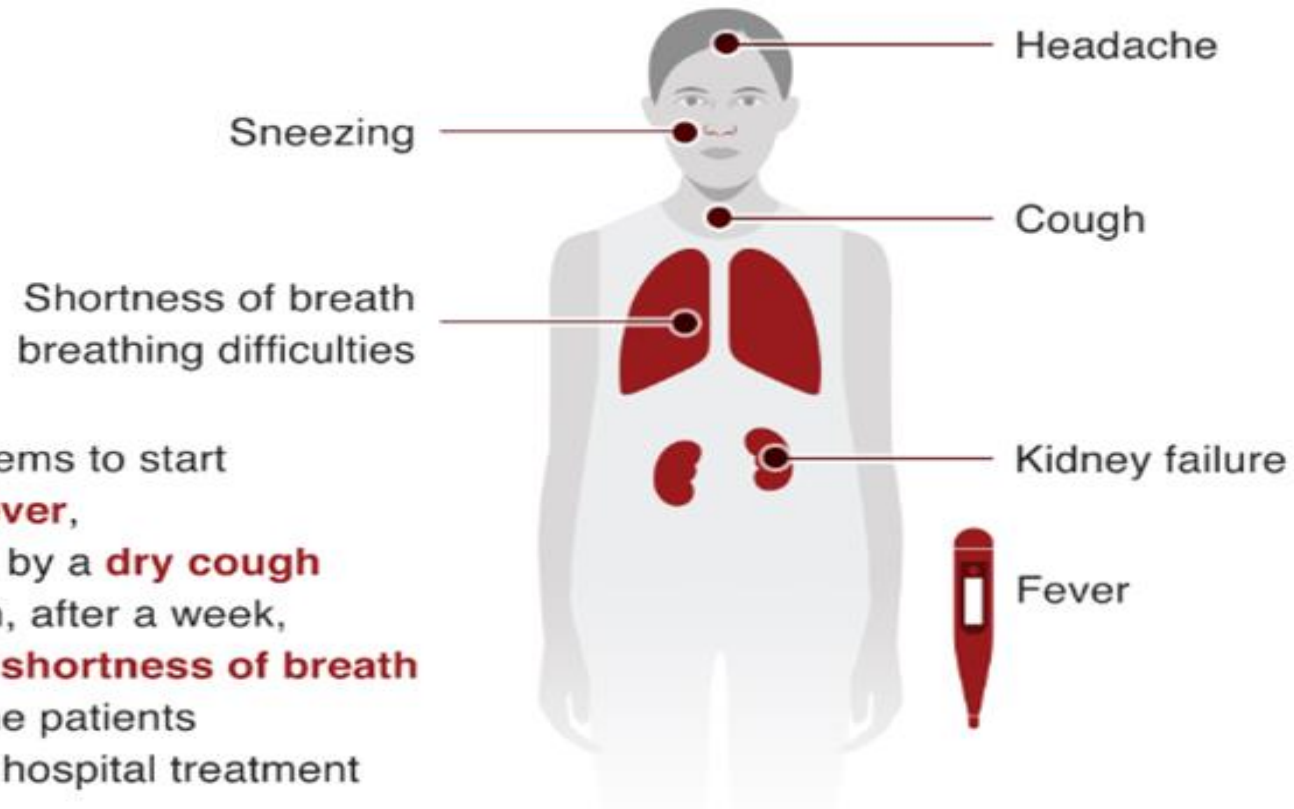
No vaccine

No treatment





Symptoms to watch out for



Virus seems to start with a **fever**, followed by a **dry cough** and then, after a week, leads to **shortness of breath** and some patients needing hospital treatment



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How do you protect yourself?

Hand hygiene

Wash your hands regularly. You should wash your hands:

- after coughing or sneezing
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after using the toilet
- when caring for the sick
- when hands are dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste





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The value of facemasks

Healthcare workers

Yes

In the community

If well – no need to use

If unwell – use to protect OTHERS

More important:

Handwashing

Cover mouth & nose with a tissue when you cough/sneeze



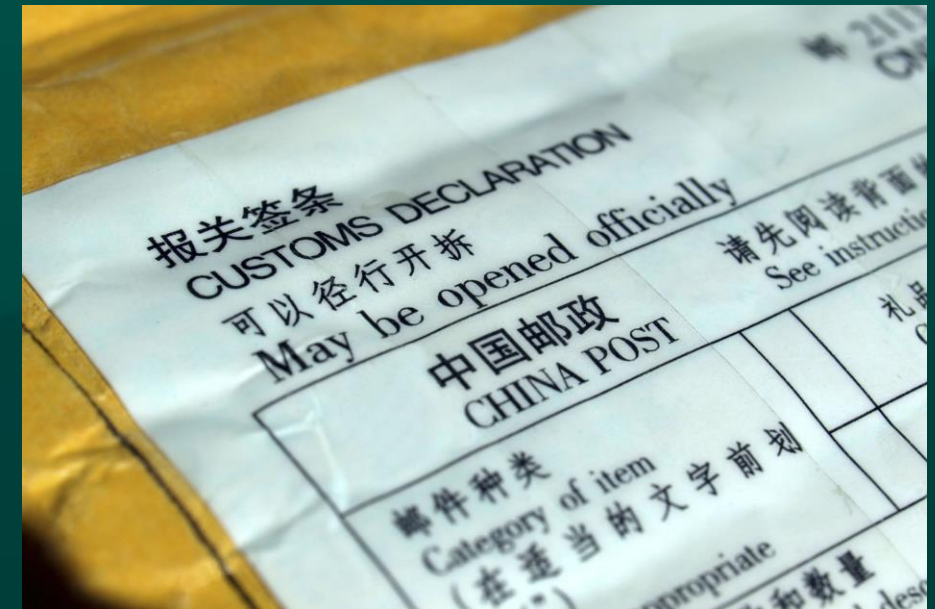


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Packages from China

No evidence of risk

Other coronaviruses – don't survive long on objects





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Why are we not performing entry screening? (Temperature Checks at airports)

1. It doesn't work

- Thousands of arriving travellers were screened during SARS, but no confirmed case was identified (Aust, Canada, Singapore)
- Entry screening measures worldwide during 2009 Pandemic (H1N1) picked up only a tiny proportion of cases

2. It has unintended consequences

- Passengers with fever more likely to conceal this by taking anti-pyretics (i.e. paracetamol)
- High cost and diverts public health resources from more evidence based measures like contact tracing
- Can give a false sense of security

3. It is not recommended by the WHO or ECDC



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The Response in Ireland: Current Risk Assessment

The risk for people from the EU/EEA and the UK travelling/resident in areas with presumed community transmission is high.

The risk of the occurrence of similar clusters, similar to the ones in Italy, in other countries in the EU/EEA/UK is moderate to high

The risk of widespread and sustained transmission of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA/UK in the coming weeks is moderate to high

The risk for healthcare systems capacity in the EU/EEA/UK in the coming weeks is considered moderate to high



**'Containment'
is key**



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Thank you

Questions?