

Update Feb 18<sup>TH</sup>

Further to our previous updates on the Novel Corona Virus, following is some additional updated information on the spread of the COVID-19.

As of Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, The no of confirmed cases in Hong Kong are 61, with 2 patients discharged and one death. A colleague, and the wife of a Hong Kong Engineer are the latest confirmed cases. First Filipino domestic helper was confirmed to be infected today. Her employer has been previously diagnosed with the virus.

The China's Health Authority have reported 1886 new corona virus cases and 98 deaths, taking its total to 72,436 and 1,868 deaths bringing the global number of infected to 73,433 and 1,1873 deaths with 5 deaths outside China, the latest deaths reported from France and Taiwan. In China, the number of new cases has previously dropped in the last 3-4 days after a near 10-fold increase in confirmed cases on Feb13<sup>th</sup> when the diagnostic criteria were widened.

There is clear evidence of human to human transmission. Familial transmission is a hallmark of the recent cases recorded in Hong Kong.

## **WHO UPDATE**

WHO has named the disease COVID-19, short for "coronavirus disease 2019."

The World Health Organization's Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, explained. at a press conference on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> the decision to name the virus Covid-19. "Having a name matters to prevent the use of other names that can be inaccurate or stigmatizing, It also gives us a standard format to use for any future coronavirus outbreak," Covid-19, it's actually pretty straightforward. The "Co" stands for corona, the "vi" stands for virus, and "d" simply means disease. The 19 is an indication of when the disease was first detected in a human, and in this case that was late 2019 in Wuhan, China.

The WHO Director General speaking at the Media briefing on COVID-19 outbreak on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> said, the new coronavirus that has killed nearly 1,800 people in China, causes only mild disease in four out of five people who get it.

"It appears that Covid-19 is not as deadly as other coronaviruses, including Sars and Mers and officials are starting to get a clearer picture of the outbreak".

The conclusion comes from analysis of data from Chinese authorities relating to 44,000 cases of Covid-19 in Hubei province, where the coronavirus was first recorded.

"More than 80% of patients have mild disease and will recover, 14% have severe disease including pneumonia and shortness of breath, 5% have critical disease including respiratory

failure, septic shock and multi-organ failure, and 2% of cases are fatal,” Tedros said in Geneva. “The risk of death increases the older you are.”

He said children were not suffering from Covid-19 in the same way as adults, and more research was needed to find out why. There were still gaps in understanding that he hoped the WHO’s team of international experts would be able to work towards filling this gap. He also said that there appeared to be a decline in the number of new cases in China. “this trend must be interpreted very cautiously; trends can Change”

For more details, click the link below.

<https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-2019-outbreak-on-17-february-2020>

WHO advice for public on COVID-19 – Myth Busters.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

### **CCDC (The China Center for Disease Control and Prevention) Update**

CCDC have published a paper on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, which consists of a study of more than 70,000 confirmed or suspected corona virus till Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, suggesting that the epidemic was in decline last week, but authors also cautioned that it can spike after people return to work following the long lunar new year holiday. This study is said to be the broadest study yet of the COVID-19. The study confirmed that 81 percent of all confirmed cases were mild with the fatality rate of 2.3%. The data of the study pointed toward “propagated source pattern “that indicated human –to – human transmission.

### **Update on treatment and Experimental Drug.**

According to Bloomberg news, China has kick-started a clinical trial to [speedily test](#) a drug for the novel coronavirus infection as the nation rushes therapies for those suffering from the disease.

Remdesivir, a new antiviral drug by [Gilead Sciences Inc.](#) aimed at infectious diseases such Ebola and SARS, will be tested by a medical team from Beijing-based China-Japan Friendship Hospital for efficacy in treating the deadly new strain of coronavirus.

For more info, click the following link.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-02-03/gilead-drug-to-undergo-human-trials-in-china-to-cure-coronaviru>

The first US COVID -19 patient recovered after getting treatment of the experimental antiviral drug called Remdesivir at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett Washington.

**For updates and latest news on COVID-19 refer to the following websites.**

John's Hopkins Bloomberg school of Public Health

<http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/resources/COVID-19/index.html>

The Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering has built and is regularly updating an online dashboard for tracking the worldwide spread of the coronavirus outbreak that began in the Chinese city of Wuhan

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

**Travel Update.**

**Follow the link below to get the update on travel restrictions.**

[\*ISD: Global Travel Restrictions \(Updated February 12\)\*](#)

This is an updated list of current travel advisories and airline/cruise announcements regarding Hong Kong and China. New developments are in red.

\* The list is for reference only. It is compiled based on media reports and Internet research, and is not exhaustive.

