



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 1**

Hunan Seafood Market Closed

**Jan 7**

Novel Coronavirus Isolated

**Jan 12**

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

**Jan 13**

First international case (Thailand)

**Jan 20**

HCW cases  
Evidence of human-to-human transmission

**Jan 23**

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

**Jan 29**

6065 cases  
132 deaths  
15 countries

**Jan 25**

Chinese New Year Festivities cancelled

Lockdown extended to 16 cities – 50m people

**Jan 30**

PHEIC Declared

**Feb 12**

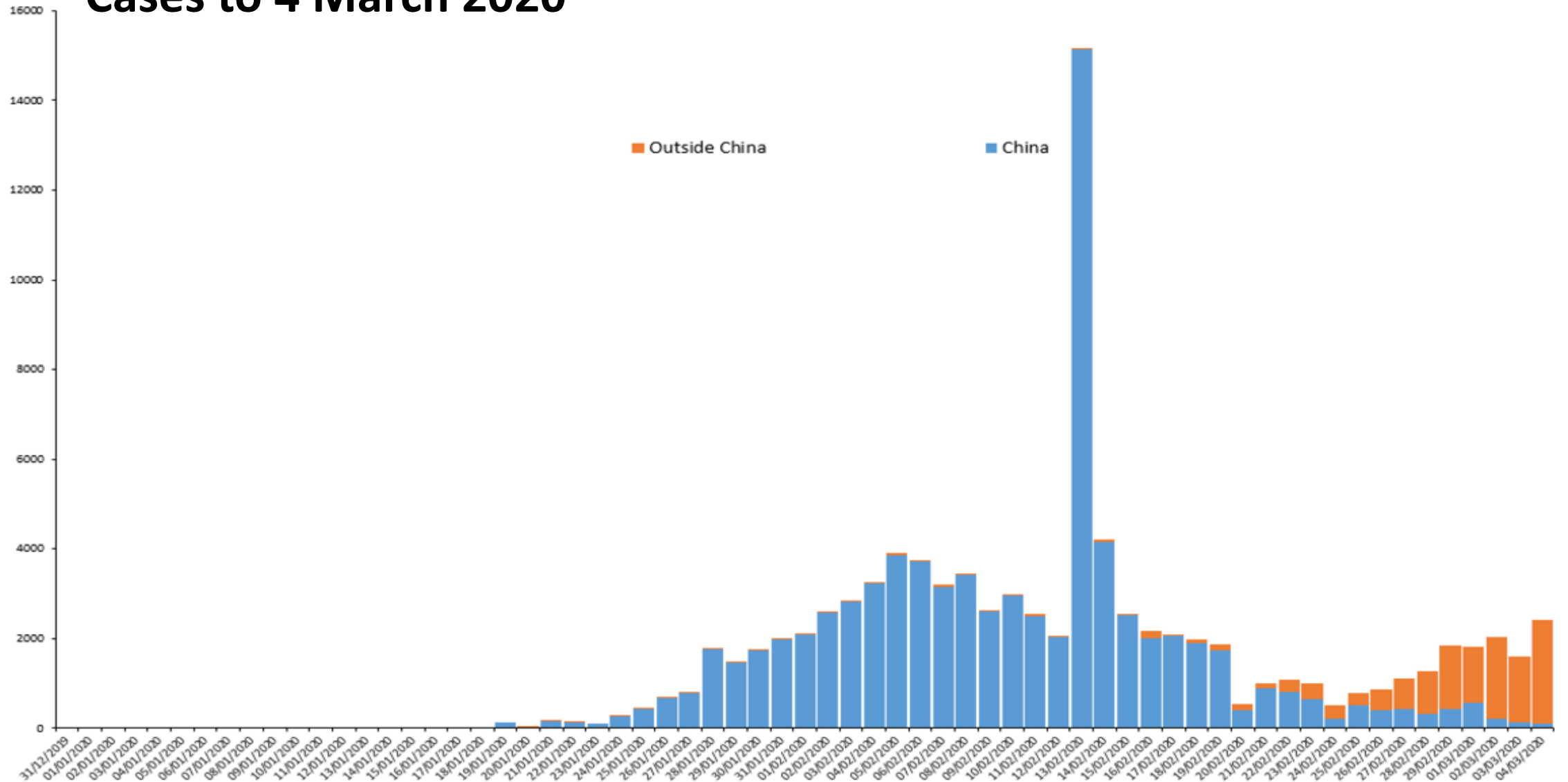
45,171 Cases  
1115 Deaths  
25 Countries

Case Definition Changed

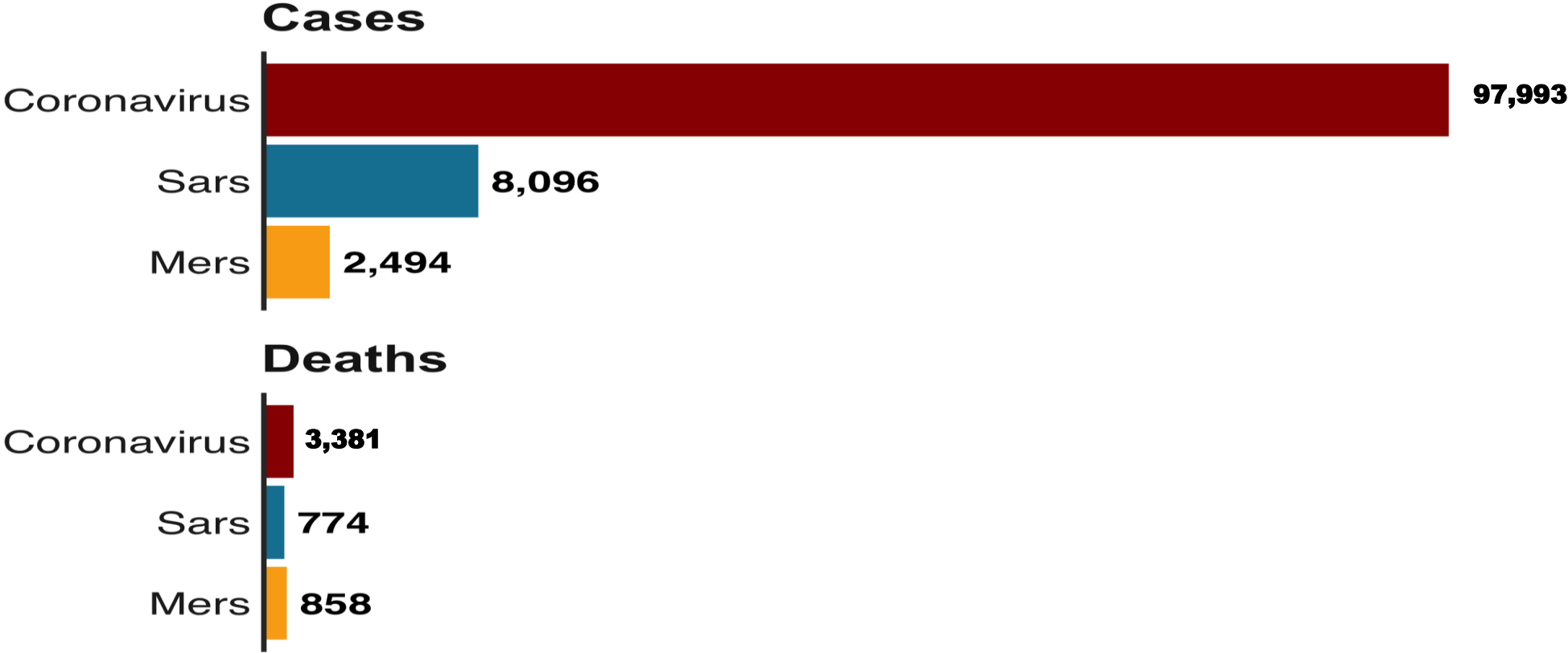
**March 6**

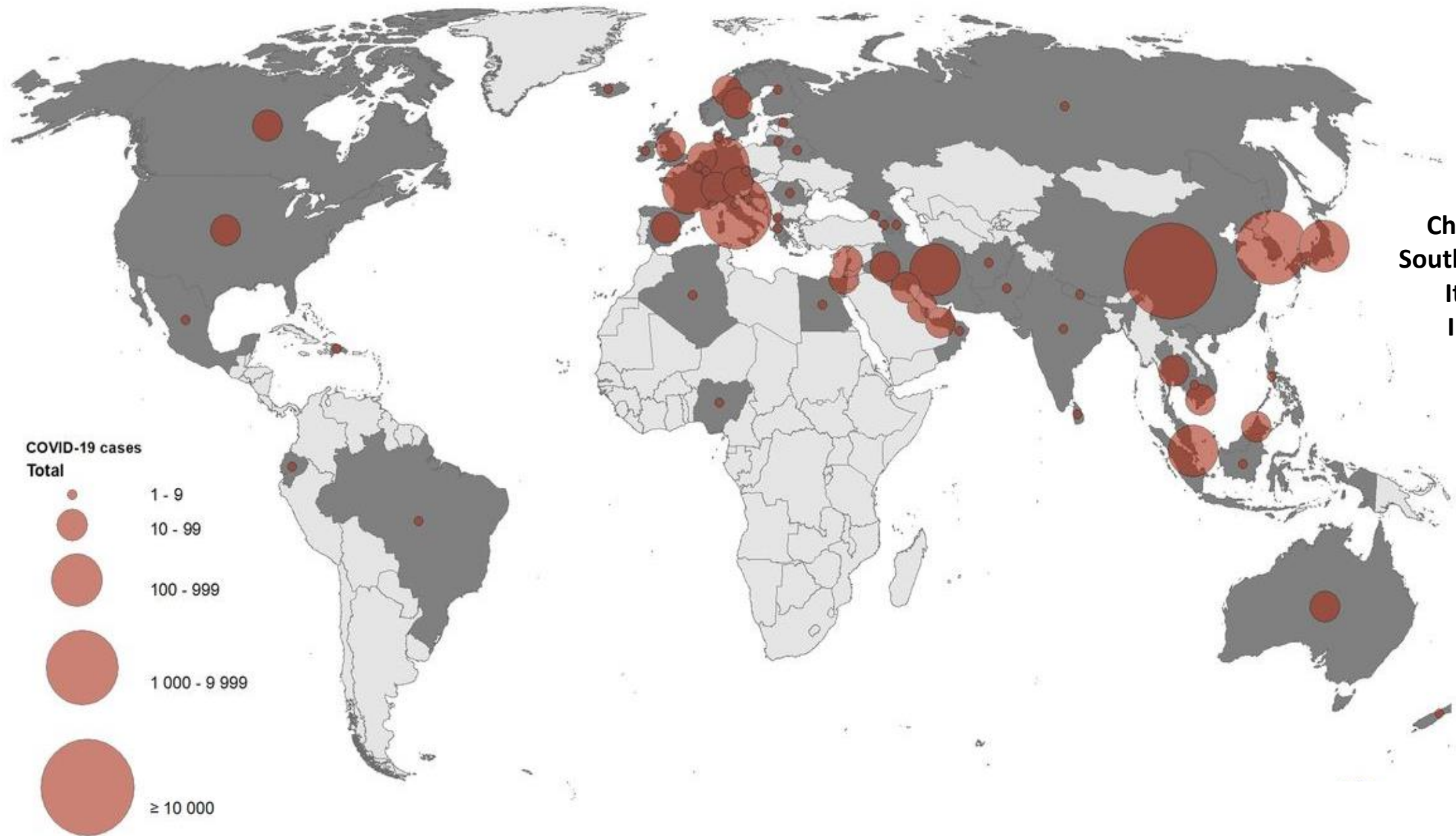
97,993 Cases  
3,381 Deaths  
87 Countries

# Cases to 4 March 2020



# Comparison with previous outbreaks





**Cases 4 March 2020**

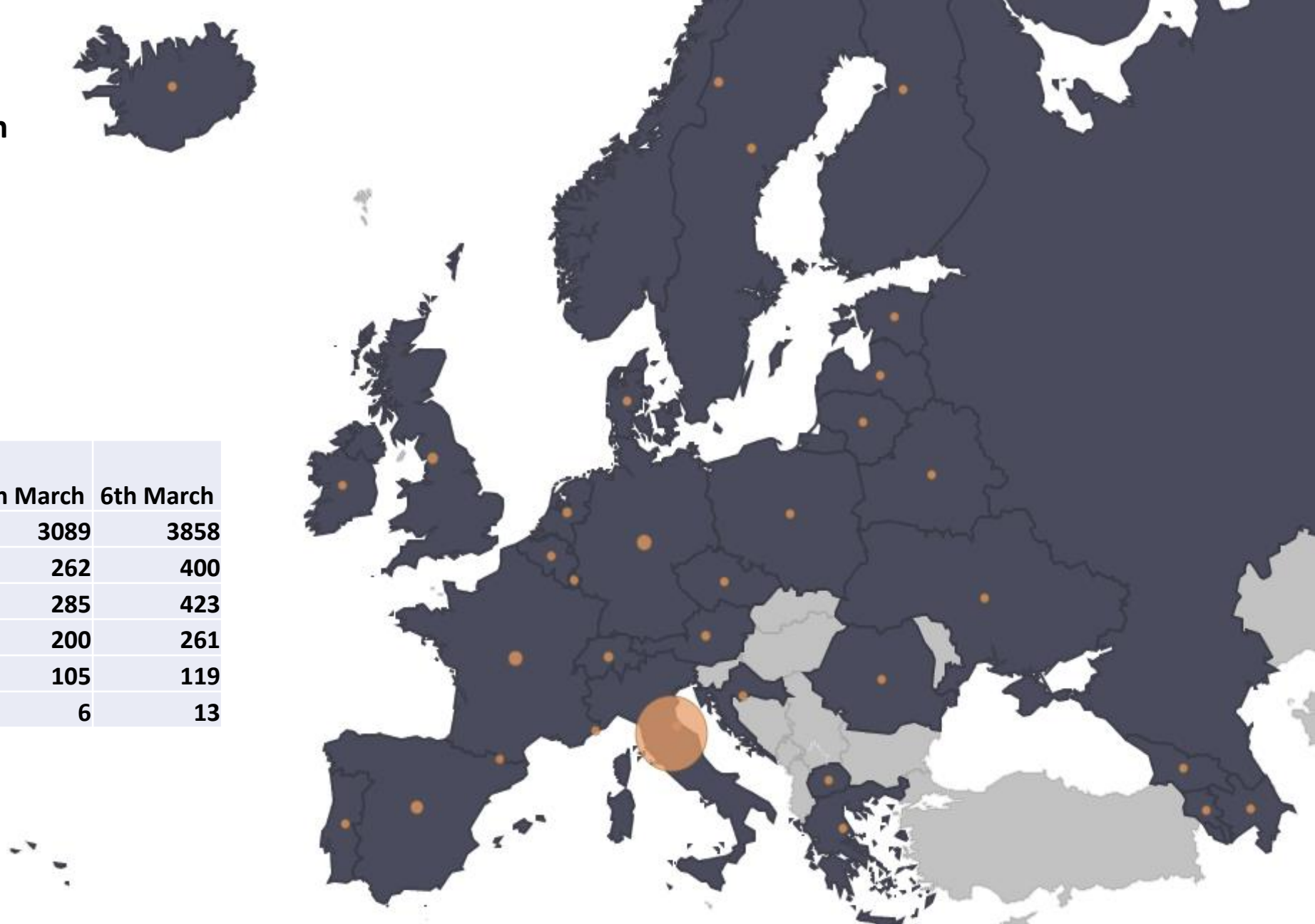


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## Cases in WHO European Region 6 March 2020

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%**





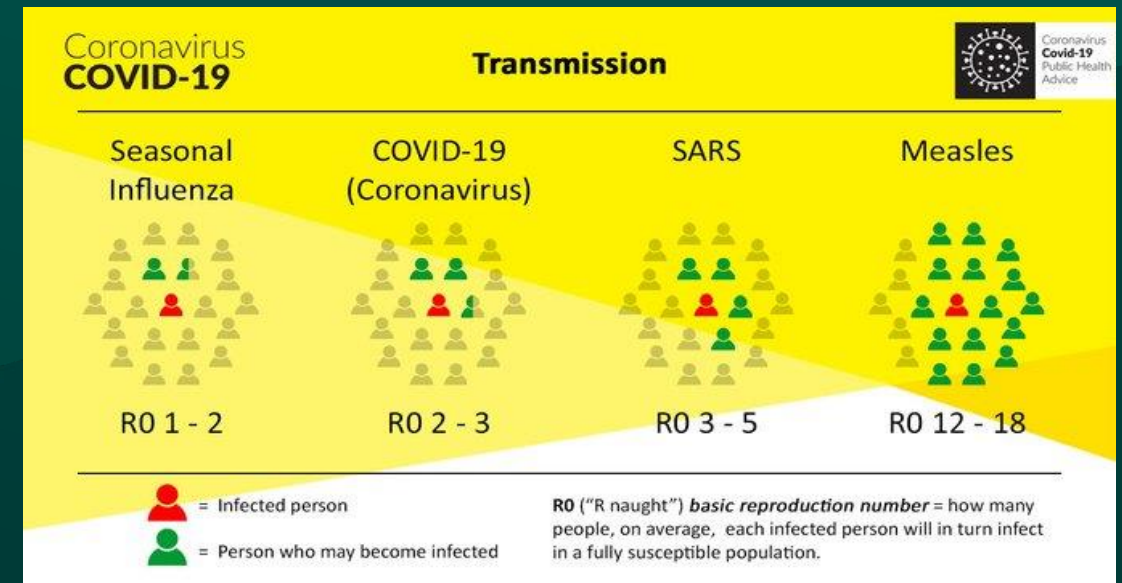
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# How infectious is Covid-19?

**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



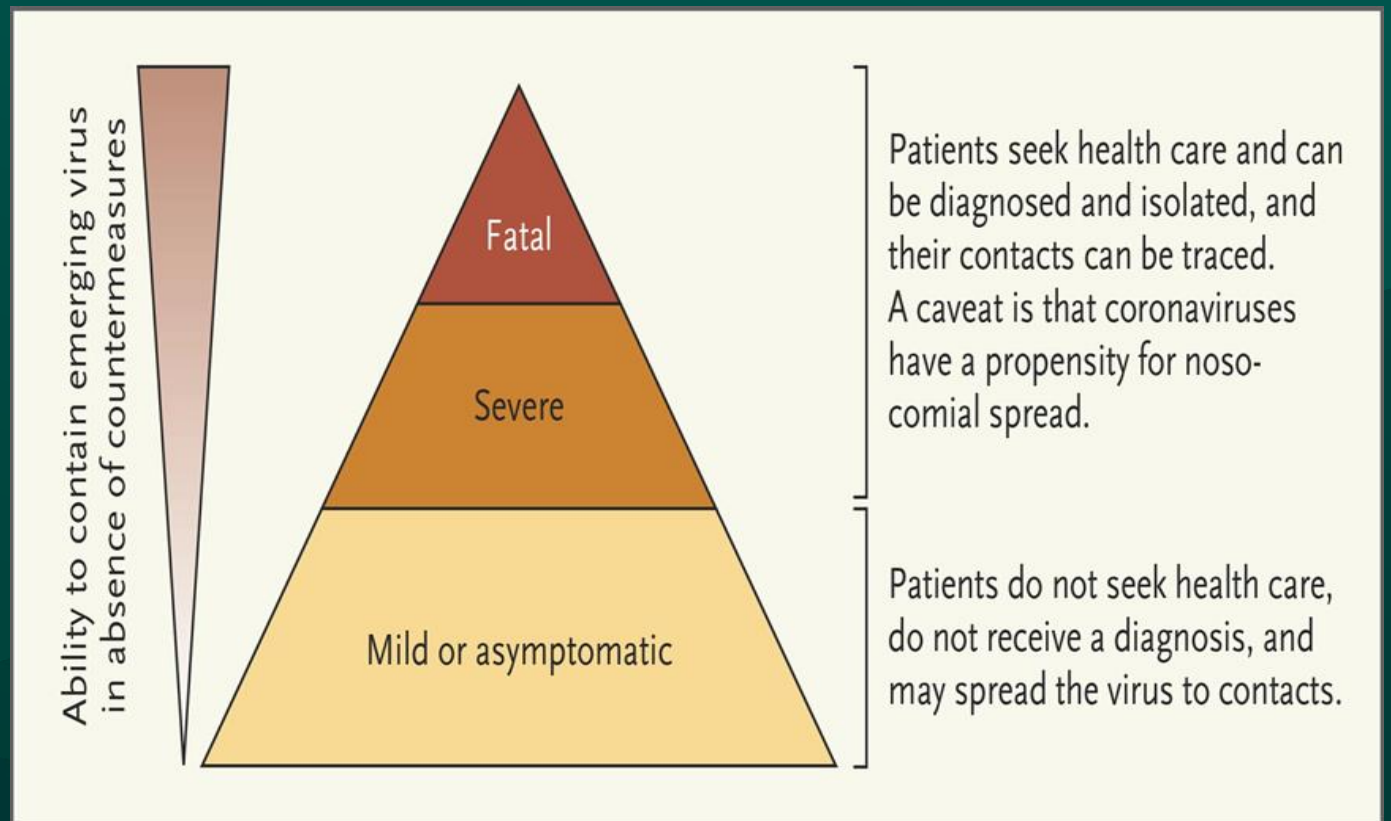
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# What don't we know about COVID-19?

**Animal source unclear**

**No vaccine**

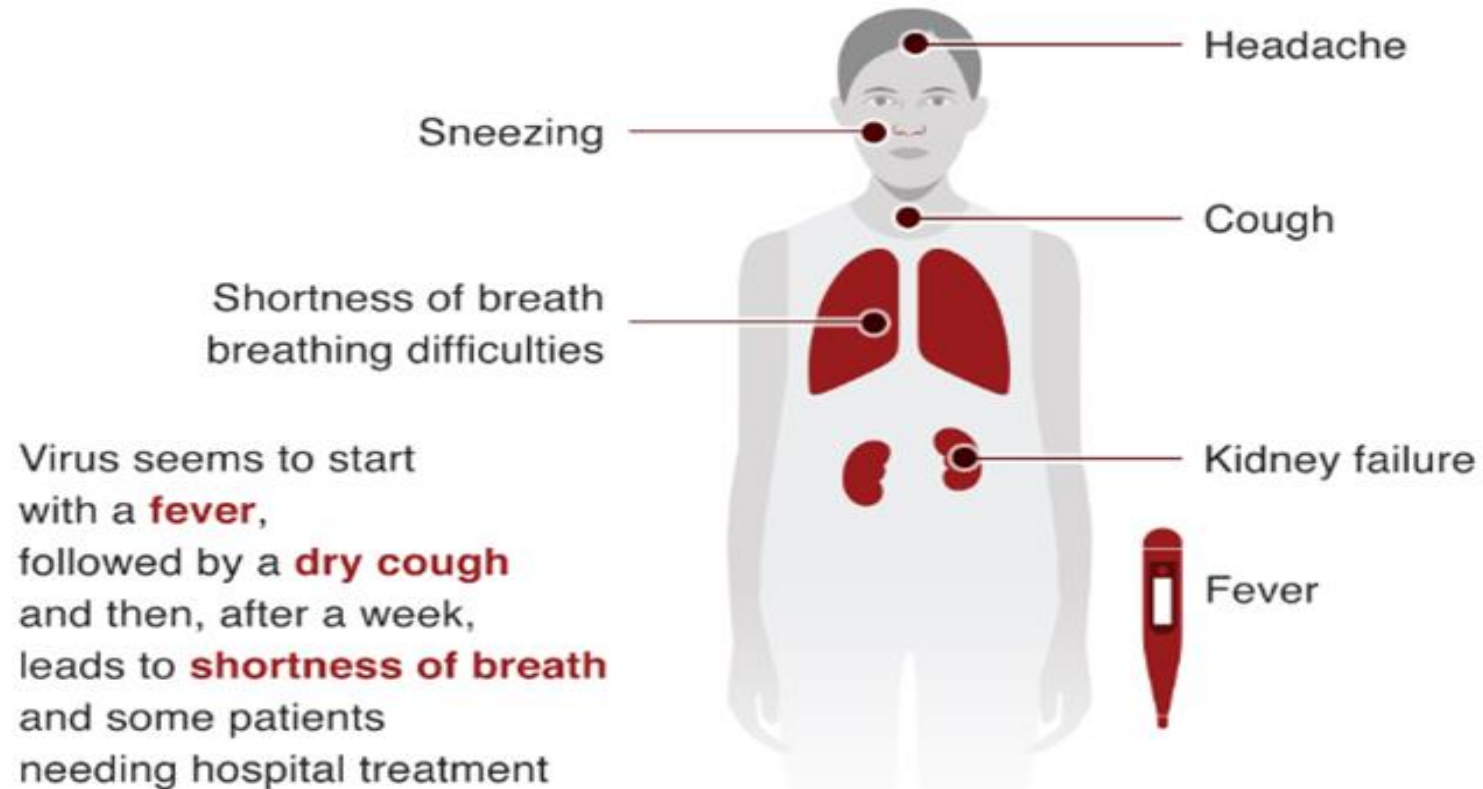
**No treatment**





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## Symptoms to watch out for





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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



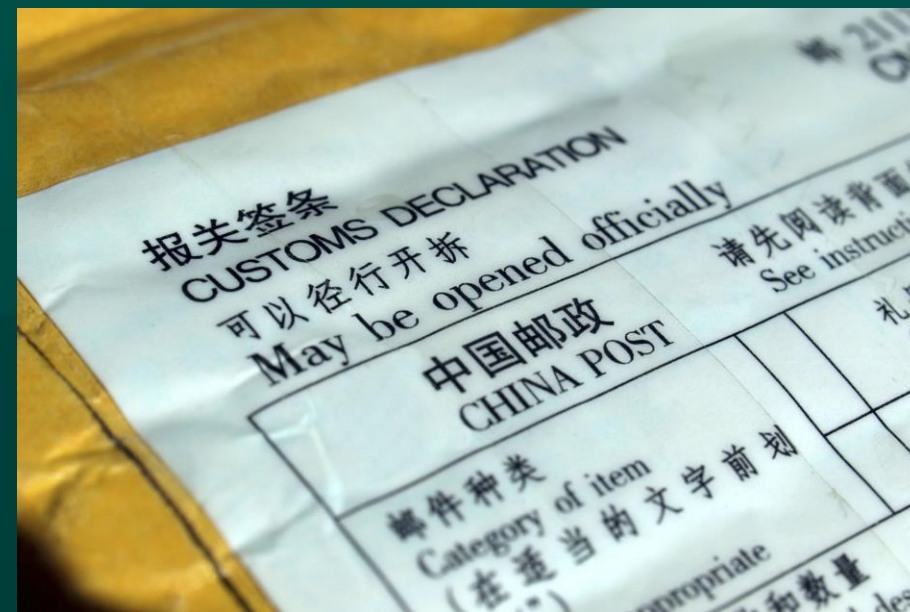


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## Packages from China

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?