Government officials say facemasks aren't necessary   2:30

LIVE UPDATES

Coronavirus death toll tops 3,000

By Joshua Berlinger, Jessie Yeung, Adam Renton, Mike Hayes, Rachel Bowman and Meg Wagner, CNN
Updated 2:54 p.m. ET, March 2, 2020

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What we're covering here

- **The latest numbers:** The novel coronavirus has killed more than 3,000 people, the vast majority in mainland China. There are now more than 88,000 global cases, with infections on every continent except Antarctica.

- **Europe raises alert level:** There was a 50% increase in cases in Italy yesterday, a significant jump in cases in Germany on Monday, and the Louvre remains closed in Paris as cases rise in France.

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All   **Asia**   **Europe**   **United States**   **Your Questions**

3 min ago

Six people have died from coronavirus in Washington state

Six people have now died in Washington state from the novel coronavirus, according to health officials.

A person has died from coronavirus in Snohomish County, according to Heather Thomas, spokesperson with the Snohomish Health District. No additional details were immediately available from the health district.

Five other people have died in Seattle and King County, according to Jeffrey Duchin, a public health official with the county.

1 min ago

Amazon removed 1 million items for coronavirus-related price gouging

From CNN's Jordan Valinsky

Amazon says it has pulled more than 1 million products for price gouging or falsely advertising effectiveness against the coronavirus.

This action comes after Wired found sellers gouging the prices of coronavirus-related products, like face masks, or charging people "exorbitant shipping costs," according to the magazine.

The company said in a statement that it has "always required sellers provide accurate information" on product pages and removes those that violates its policies. Amazon said that third-party sellers must follow its Fair Pricing Policy, which states companies can't set a price "significantly higher" then seen in other places or sell an item that "misleads customers."

> "We are disappointed that bad actors are attempting to artificially raise prices on basic need products during a global health crisis and, in line with our long-standing policy, have recently blocked or removed tens of thousands of offers," an Amazon (AMZN) spokesperson told CNN Business. "We continue to actively monitor our store and remove offers that violate our policies."

5 coronavirus deaths confirmed in Washington state

Dr. Jeff Duchin, a health officer with Seattle and King County Public Health, speaks during a press conference at Seattle and King County Public Health on Saturday, February 29. David Ryder/Getty Images

There have been five deaths the novel coronavirus in Seattle and King County, according to Jeffrey Duchin, a public health official with the county.

29 min ago

A step-by-step look at how experts are containing and mitigating coronavirus

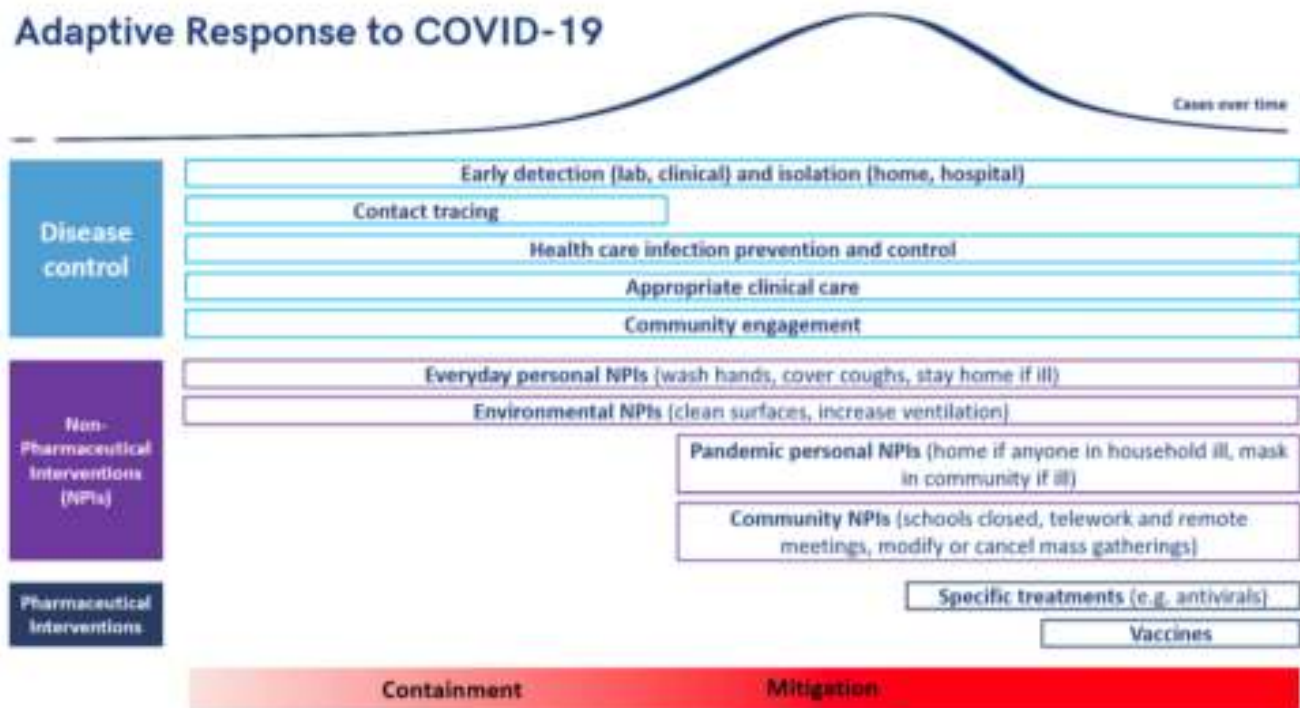There are a lot of steps that go into containing and mitigating the novel coronavirus, also known as Covid-19.

~~tracing the contacts of an infected person and by preventing infections in health care facilities.~~ It may also include non-pharmaceutical interventions for individuals and communities, like encouraging good hygiene and canceling events where a lot of people will gather.

Later on, treatments and vaccines may help mitigate the outbreak — but those take time to develop and test.

Resolve to Save Lives, a health initiative to prevent epidemics, spelled out the process in this chart:

This figure outlines response measures in COVID-19 containment and mitigation. Disease control activities to reduce spread and effectively treat those infected should be in place from the start of an outbreak. Contact tracing is critical in containment but is not used in areas with extensive spread in communities. Routine non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are also used early on as they are in a typical flu season, and include washing hands, covering coughs, staying home when ill, and making sure surfaces are cleaned. As COVID-19 becomes a pandemic, additional NPIs may be implemented, including additional personal measures such as staying home if a family member is sick, and community measures such as closing schools, mandatory telework and canceling mass gatherings. These measures will dampen the impact of the pandemic, reduce the size of the peak and thereby improve survival, and delay cases in the hope that pharmaceutical interventions such as antiviral treatments and vaccines will become available

Last updated: March 2, 2020

40 min ago

World Health Organization sends medical supplies to Iran

From CNN's Ramin Mostaghim in Tehran and Hamdi Alkhshali

eight tons of medicines and test kits, to help the country in its battle against the new coronavirus outbreak, state news IRNA reported.

A United Arab Emirates military aircraft carrying the aid landed at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport, IRNA said.

Representatives of the UN's health agency have also arrived in Iran to examine the country's handling of the virus.

Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted this:

30 min ago

Can you catch the coronavirus by eating food prepared by others?

Your coronavirus questions, answered

It's recommended that you take precautionary measures when it comes to foods and utensils that are communal. The novel coronavirus is a respiratory virus, meaning it transmits through the lungs. It's recommended that you are cautious when it comes to shared utensils and foods like salad bars.

> "It's not a virus that will necessarily transmit easily in that way. I would say that things like salad bars, you know, we will have to be very diligent about what we are touching and all of these utensils that many people might be touching. That would be where I would be the risk of the transmission occurring, more so than the food that we are actually eating. This is a respiratory virus that transmits through the lungs," said Dr. Michael Mina, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard University.

55 min ago

Italy coronavirus cases now total 1,835 people

From CNN's Valentina Di Donato in Rome

Paramedics stand by a tent that was set up outside the emergency ward of the Cremona hospital in northern Italy, on Saturday, February 29. Claudio Furlan/Lapresse/AP

The number of coronavirus cases in Italy climbed to 1,835, with 52 deaths reported so far, according to an update from the country's Civil Protection Authority on Monday.

More on this: Italy has the most coronavirus cases of any country outside of Asia.

In Lombardy, the northern Italian region at the center of the country's outbreak, 1 in 10 of confirmed coronavirus cases involve medical personnel, according to Paola Stringa, a press officer for the Lombardy regional government.

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2 hr 19 min ago

Four Americans released from national quarantine unit

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Josh Funk/AP

Four Americans who were being monitored in the National Quarantine Unit at the UNMC/Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha were released from the quarantine unit, according to a release from the institution.

Two of the people previously tested positive for coronavirus, while two others tested negative throughout the quarantine process, the release said.

The two people who previously tested positive for the disease were released from quarantine yesterday afternoon, having tested negative for the virus in three separate tests, 24 hours apart, according to UNMC health officials. The two people who tested negative left the quarantine unit this morning.

These four Americans met all UNMC/Nebraska Medicine qualifications for release, which exceeded CDC qualifications.

British Airways cancels flights due to coronavirus-related lack of demand

From CNN's Vasco Cotovio in London

Ben Stansall/AFP/Getty Images

British Airways, one of the largest airlines in Europe, has announced that it will be canceling several flights to "match reduced demand due to the continuing coronavirus issue," it said in a statement today.

The cancelations will impact flights between March 16 and March 28 and include:

- Cancelling 12 roundtrips from London Heathrow to New York JFK

- Cancelling 171 short-haul roundtrip flights from London Heathrow to countries including Italy, France, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland

- Cancelling 7 short-haul roundtrip flights from Gatwick to Italy, France and Albania

"We will be contacting customers on cancelled flights so we can discuss their travel options, including rebooking onto other carriers where possible, full refunds or booking with BA for a later date of travel," the statement added.

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