

Medicines for Europe

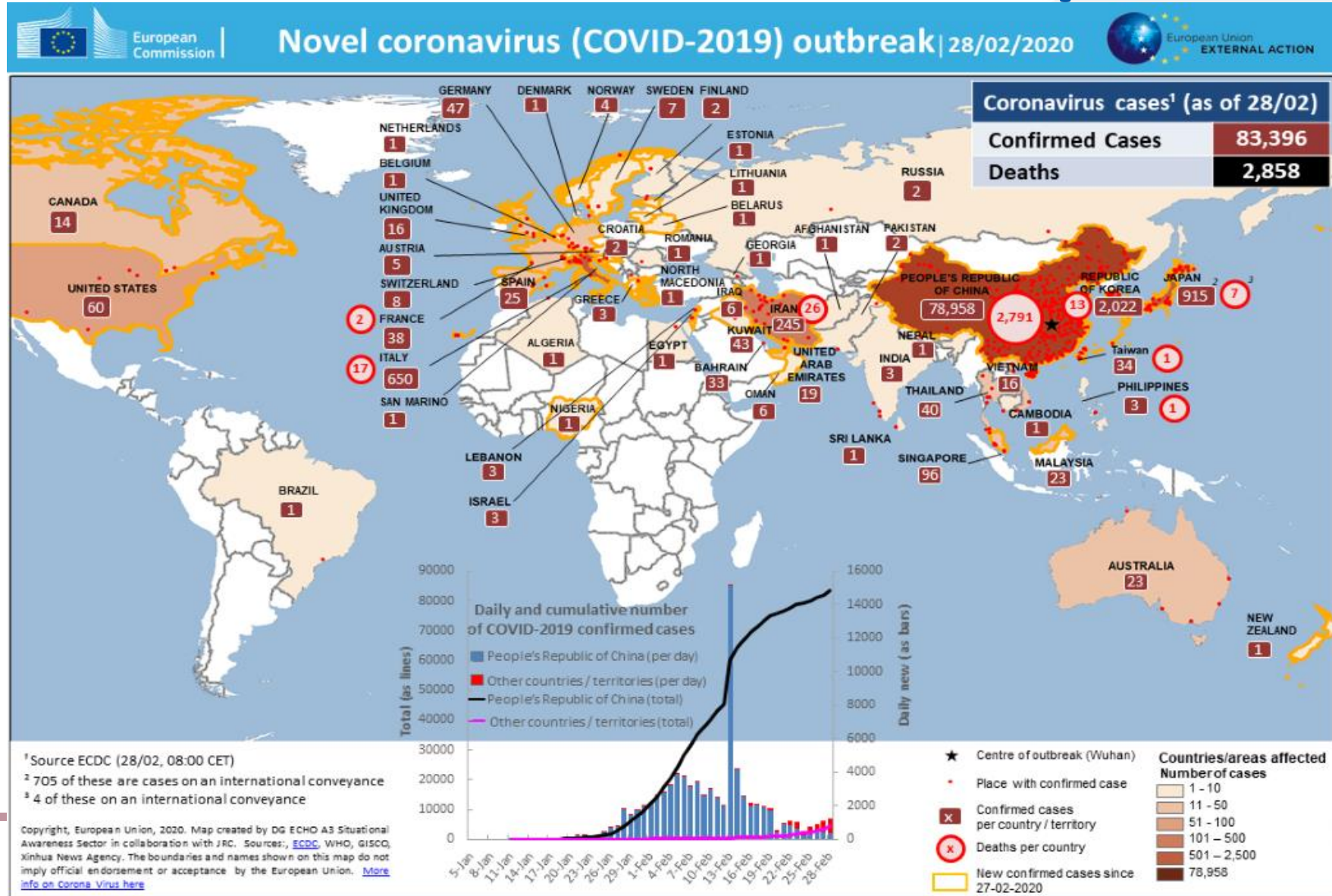
Covid-19 Meeting

3rd March 2020

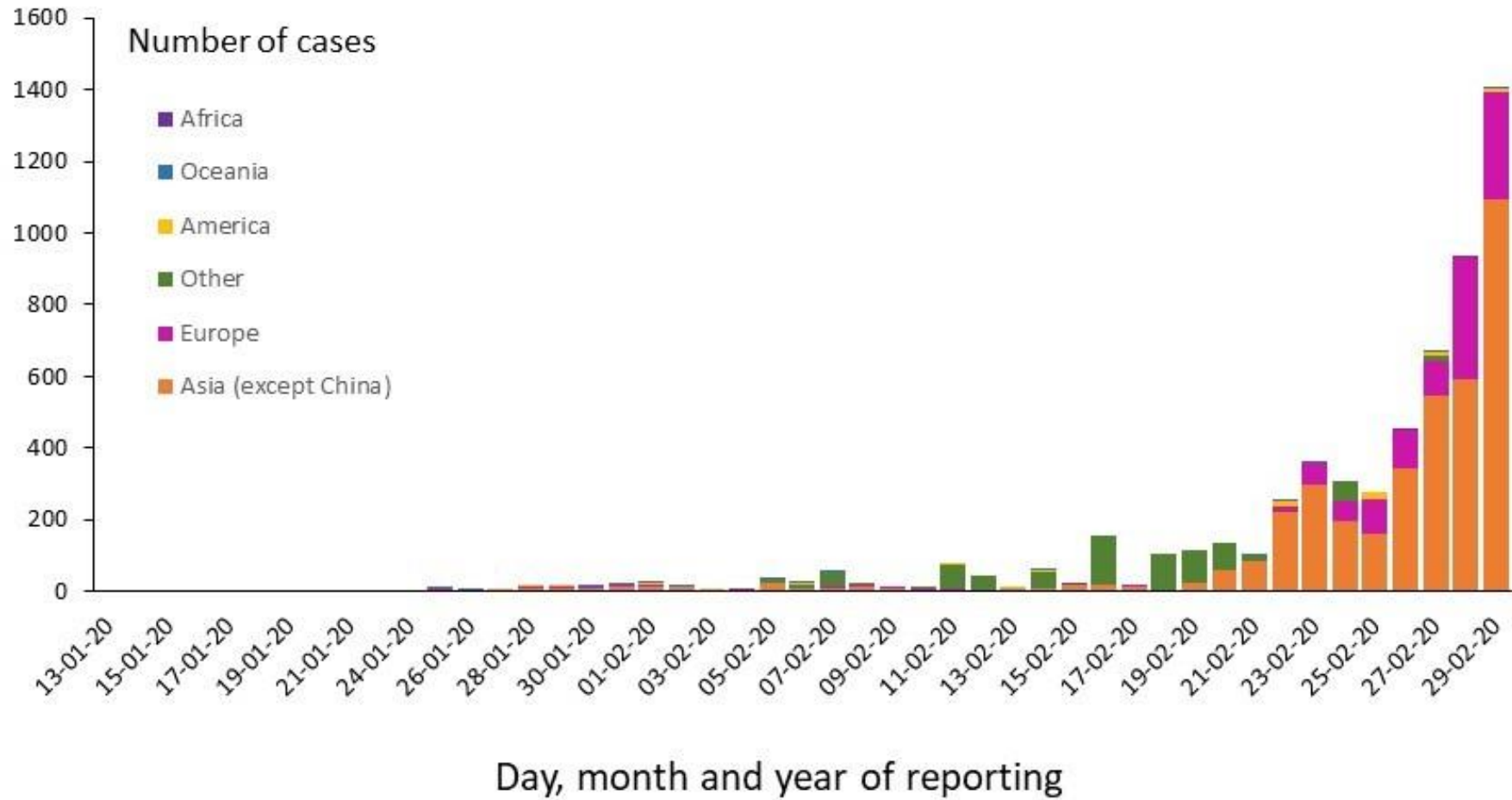
Current state of outbreak

- **China** first declared the issue in December 2019 – now 80000 people have been infected
- **WHO**: Warns of high risk of global pandemic
- **EU**: Raises risk level to “high” – over 2000 infected in 18 member states
- High rate of infection in **Northern Italy** – not far from Milan (big pharma production)

Major centres of outbreak: China, Korea, Japan, Italy



Covid-19 cases outside of China (29 Feb)



Current disease surveillance for COVID-19 at EU level

EU case definition for probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19, updated 25 February 2020:

- the definition for a suspected case now includes people with acute respiratory infection (ARI) coming from an area with local transmission or contact to a confirmed case, as well as all severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) cases with no other aetiology irrespective of travel-history or contact to a confirmed case as suspected cases.
- ECDC also advocates the inclusion of patients with SARI irrespective of travel-history or residence in areas with localised or (more widespread) local transmission in the EU/EEA.
- Cases that fit the probable or confirmed criteria of the case definition should be reported through The European Surveillance System (TESSy). Variables collected are based on the WHO interim case reporting form.
- In addition to reporting to TESSy, COVID-19 monitoring is conducted through epidemic intelligence at ECDC.

ECDC Recommendations

- Immediate activation of national emergency response mechanisms and pandemic preparedness plans to ensure containment and mitigation of COVID-19 with non-pharmaceutical public health measures.
- Ensuring general public is aware of the seriousness of COVID-19. A high degree of population understanding, community engagement and acceptance of the measures put in place (including more stringent social distancing) key in preventing further spread.
- Implementation of protocols for COVID-19 laboratory testing, diagnosis, surveillance and treatment.
- Enhancement of surveillance, epidemiological investigation, close contact tracing, management of close contacts, immediate case detection and isolation.
- Implementation of social distancing (e.g. the suspension of large-scale gatherings and the closure of schools and workplaces) to interrupt the chains of transmission.
- Adapted risk communication and provision of adequate personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and rigorous application of infection prevention and control measures in healthcare facilities.
- Provision of adequate healthcare capacity to isolate, support and actively treat patients.

Commission Covid-19 Response team

Five commissioners will coordinate the work

- *Janez Lenarčič is in charge of crisis management*
- *Stella Kyriakides is in charge of all health issues*
- Ylva Johansson is in charge of border-related issues
- Adina Vălean is in charge of mobility
- Paolo Gentiloni is in charge of macroeconomic aspects

Importance of Chinese production

- 30-40% of global API production
- Leading supplier of ingredients to India, EU, US pharma
- Leading supplier of starting materials & intermediates to EU API industry

Impact of on Chinese production

- Quarantine measures preventing return of workers to factories in big cities.
- Some producers requisitioned for medical emergency (i.e. production of anti-infectives and anti-virals to address the outbreak).
- Logistics heavily affected:
 - Air travel suspended
 - Internal ports (Wuhan biggest internal port in China) stopped

Return to work according to official Chinese sources

- People should return to work in batches - those key fields relating to national welfare and people's livelihoods should resume production as soon as possible.
- Measures should be taken to ensure the organization of transportation to reduce the risk of epidemic transmission.
- Focus on industrial chain to solve problems such as insufficient machinery, labour and capital for stable supply of raw materials, auxiliary materials, important parts and components.

Reference: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-02-09/China-moves-to-ensure-resumption-of-work-goes-smoothly-NWJDzp9o2Y/index.html>

- The administration has set up a green channel for enterprises producing epidemic prevention materials or related drugs in terms of business registration, patent application and trademark filing. Further lowered fees of related technical services provided by the verification and inspection departments under the administration.

Reference: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-02-25/China-further-optimizes-market-regulation-to-aid-work-resumption-Ong2aVE3Ys/index.html>

- R&D support for reagents, drugs, and vaccines and accelerating the development of biomedicine, medical equipment so as to improve the efficiency of diagnosis and treatment.

Reference: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-02-23/Xi-attends-meeting-on-coordinating-COVID-19-control--OjLVAAJHm/index.html>

03/03/2020

WHO update on production in China

- Major Chinese API producers resumed production end February 2020
 - Concerns for SMEs that produce intermediates (50% have operational problems).
 - Major fermentation plants (for antibiotics) based in Inner Mongolia did not stop their production.
 - No major concerns on vaccines side.
- Supply chain problems, including delays in availability of finished products and logistics of products that depend on exports from China.
- Chinese officials have committed to expedite exports of pharmaceutical materials and products.
- Indian manufacturers informed of potential increase of costs of production and anticipate shortages of API (likely due to logistic issues) and keeping in mind that the production of intermediates for synthesis can be a bottleneck.

WHO list of priority products linked to Covid-19

WHO draft Priority List of products to be monitored, including antibiotics, antihypertensive, antivirals and medicines for NCDs. This list has been shared with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce to identify potential risk of shortages. The list is not exhaustive and others may be added if needed.

<u>Antibiotics</u>	<u>Diabetes</u>	<u>Hypertension</u>	<u>ARVs / antivirals</u>	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Maternal and newborn</u>	<u>Antiepileptic medicines</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amoxicillin • Amoxicillin/clavulanate • Cefazolin • Ceftriaxone • Piperacillin / Tazobactam • Meropenem • Gentamycine • Procaine penicillin and benzyl penicillin G <p>Others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azithromycin • TMP-SMX • Vancomycin iv • Colistin (maybe still necessary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metformin • Glibenclamide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amlodipine • Hydrochlorothiazide • Chlorthalidone • Losartan • Telmisartan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lopinavir/ritonavir • Darunavir/ritonavir • Tenofovir • Lamivudine, emtricitabine • Consider adding Anti-flu agents – not for API but for use in compassionate treatment • (Oseltamivir and zanamivir) • Sofobuvir • Remdesivir 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxytocin • Betamethasone Injection • Dexamethasone Injection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phenobarbital/carbamazepine/phenytoin/valproic acid • anticonvulsants– Diazepam

WHO active supply chain surveillance for priority list of pharmaceutical

- WHO concerned about both API and FdF production. For products at high supply risk mitigation measures are to be proposed e.g. regulatory flexibilities for alternate API sources, alternate products. WHO will raise this at Medicines Regulators forum i.e. (ICDRA).
- With the massive amount of information, there is a need for a careful and coordinated surveillance of the supply chain and risk assessment.
- WHO drafted and presented a Risk assessment model for industry.
- Most European regulatory agencies contacting pharmaceutical companies to assess risk of shortages and identify mitigation measures. Opportunity to align both the WHO “questionnaire” and information requested by NRAs already.
- IGBA/Medicines for Europe requested possible dialogue between leading regulatory agencies of major producing regions: China, India, USA, EU

Impact of Covid-19 on production in Italy

- Most companies have no direct impact – some have workers under quarantine in the red areas for 14 days;
- MAH based in Milan promoted smart working for all employees for a few weeks
- Production lines in 36 plants around the country are mainly outside the red zone and no immediate impact is expected; those inside the red zone are under special restrictions - more clarity soon
- sales reps and people devoted to scientific information not to visit any hospital or physicians in the red areas and – in general – in affected regions;
- logistics and transports are affected and are looking closely the development of transports within the country, which may affect the regular distribution in the upcoming weeks;
- some information transport companies refusing to go to Italy for pharma supplies. If so, contact Assogenerici

Medicines for Europe letter on Covid-19

- No immediate risk to suppliers but extended outbreak could affect supplies
- Regulatory mitigation measures: rapid API/MA switches; respect variation timelines; flexibility for temporary imports and for packaging to shift products from one market to another.
- Market surveillance measures: risk of distributors hoarding products due to market dynamics (higher COGs) or sub-optimal distribution to patients.
- Prepare for risk of shortages/stock outs

Waiting for Commission/EMA response

- Monitor risk for production in Europe and risk of shortages
- Monitor logistics risks for imports and possible issues within Europe
- Engage in dialogue with Commission/EMA on mitigation measures
- Continue outreach to China/WHO to facilitate access to key ingredients
- Do we need to plan for large-scale production of emergency medicines? (anti-infectives, anti-virals, other)?