



# SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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## A WORLD IN CRISIS: COVID-19

In addition to the many challenges brought about by climate change—including wildfires and extreme weather conditions, political and social unrest in many countries, desperate situation of unwanted migrants, among others, there is a global health problem that is holding a big number of nations in its frightening grip: the Coronavirus.

We are presenting a background and an update of the disease, for the information and guidance of the school community and for future generations of Paulinians to look back on (hopefully) with relief that it has not persisted to their time.

### Background

Health organizations all over the world are responding to an outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in almost 90 locations internationally, including in the United States. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19").

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

### Source and Spread of the Virus

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2).

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of these viruses have their origins in bats. The sequences from patients in most countries are similar to the one that China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

Early on, many of the patients at the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person

spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Person-to-person spread was subsequently reported outside Hubei and in countries outside China, including in the United States. Some international destinations now have apparent community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed. People have to learn what is known about the spread of this newly emerged coronaviruses. (from CDC, US)

### Updates as of 7 March 2020

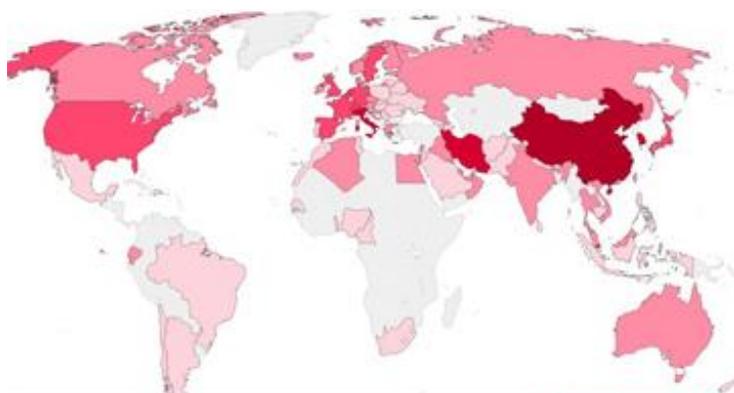
U.S. cruise-line operators will work with the Trump administration to deal with the new coronavirus and federal health officials sought to explain difficulties in making a diagnostic tool to stem the disease.

Italy will limit movement in the region near Milan to fight the spreading virus as deaths reached 233, the most after China. New fatalities at a Seattle nursing home pushed the U.S. total to 19.

New cases rose in New York City and its suburbs and U.S. pro sports leagues discussed plans to limit locker room access.

### Key Developments

- Cases surpass 105,000 worldwide; deaths exceed 3,500.
- Pence urges some senior citizens to avoid cruises.
- U.S. tests fewer than 6,000 samples.
- Hungary scraps main national holiday event.
- Saudi Arabia closes schools in Qatif province.
- Italy reports 233 virus deaths, 5,883 infections.
- Egypt confirmed another 33 cases from Nile cruise.
- Kuwait suspends parliament for two weeks. (from Bloomberg news)



Mainland China Cases: 80,695  
Deaths: 3,097  
South Korea Cases: 7,041  
Deaths: 46  
Italy Cases: 5,883  
Deaths: 233  
Iran Cases: 5,823  
Deaths: 145  
France Cases: 949  
Deaths: 16  
Japan Cases: 455  
Deaths: 6

Here's where cases of coronavirus have been identified

[See the graphic](#)

In the Philippines, this is the latest update:

Health authorities continue to ramp up efforts to detect possible cases of the novel coronavirus in the Philippines.



As of Saturday, March 7, the Department of Health (DOH) said it has probed 692 patients. Out of this number:

- 46 - admitted to hospitals
- 640 - discharged from hospitals
- 6 - confirmed cases

Of the six confirmed cases in the Philippines:

- One Filipino visited Japan and returned to Manila on February 25
- One Filipino has no known travel history, the country's first local transmission
- One Filipino is the wife of the patient mentioned above
- One died due to severe pneumonia because of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new virus
- Two have since recovered

President Rodrigo Duterte has agreed to declare a State of Public Health Emergency in the Philippines due to the confirmation of a local transmission of the virus, upon the request of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

### **Preventive measures**

As the world's population is threatened over novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) rapid spread that has killed over three hundred individuals in China, the World Health Organization (WHO) urged the public to practice the standard recommendation to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses.

These include frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. Washing of hands according to WHO will kill the virus.

When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue. Used tissues should be thrown immediately and disposed properly. Wash hands immediately after disposing it.

Avoiding close contact with anyone who has fever and cough is also highly recommended.

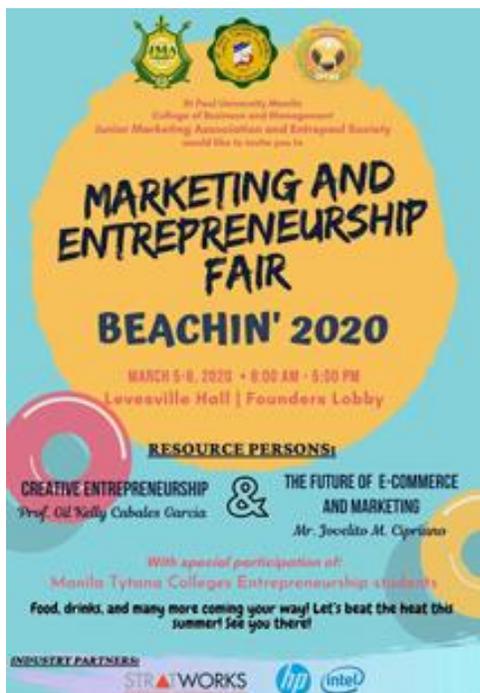
If one has fever, cough and difficulty in breathing, it is advised to seek early medical care and share previous travel history with your health care provider.

When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals, the WHO added.

The organization advised that consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.

Should anyone see symptoms of colds and cough, immediate consultation with a physician is encouraged. (from the Philippine Information Agency)

## RECENT ACTIVITY: BME AND BSA FAIR



The welcome posters...





The organizers of the BME and Accountancy Fair: with Albert Chan, Angie Soriano-Gonzales, Grace Leongson, RC Bignotia, and one of the speakers, Prof. Gil Kelly Garcia...

The HP Booth...



Awarding of certificate to Prof. Garcia...

### AND FORTHCOMING...

### FROM THE SOUTH MANILA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM (SMEC)



### CONDOLENCES

The Paulinian Family condoles with the family of Anne Porcuna-Padillon (BS Psychology 1994) who passed away recently.

