



# Coronavirus Covid-19: Latest developments and EU's response

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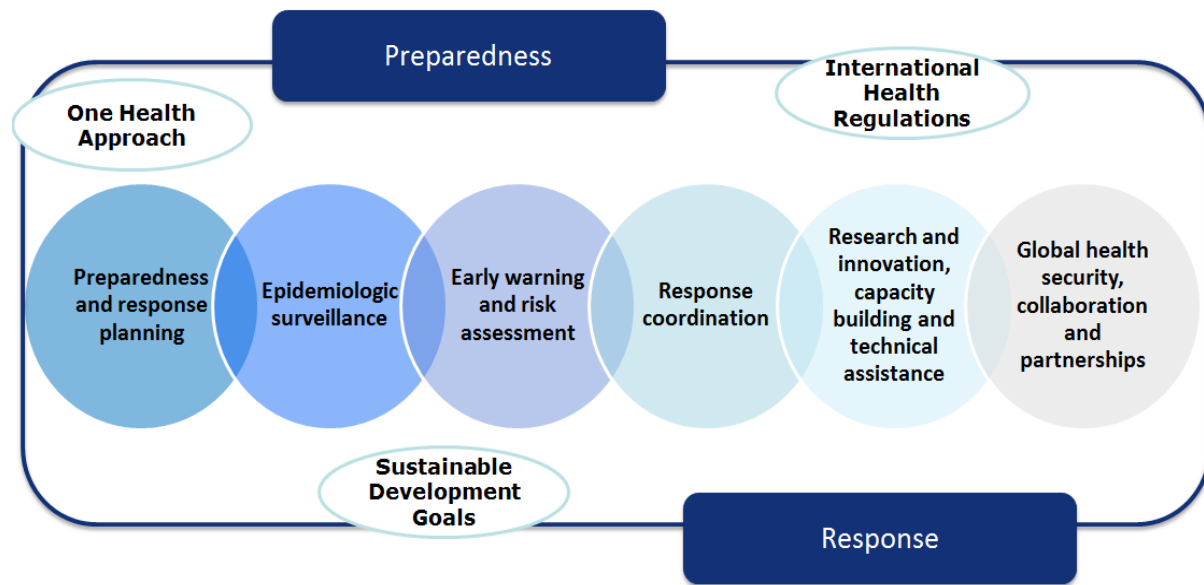
# Presentation

1. Policy Framework & EC mechanisms
2. Corona virus
3. Timeline
4. China experience
5. Member States Preparedness & Response
6. European Commission response
7. EU Agencies and EU co-funded Joint Actions
8. Current Situation
9. Future

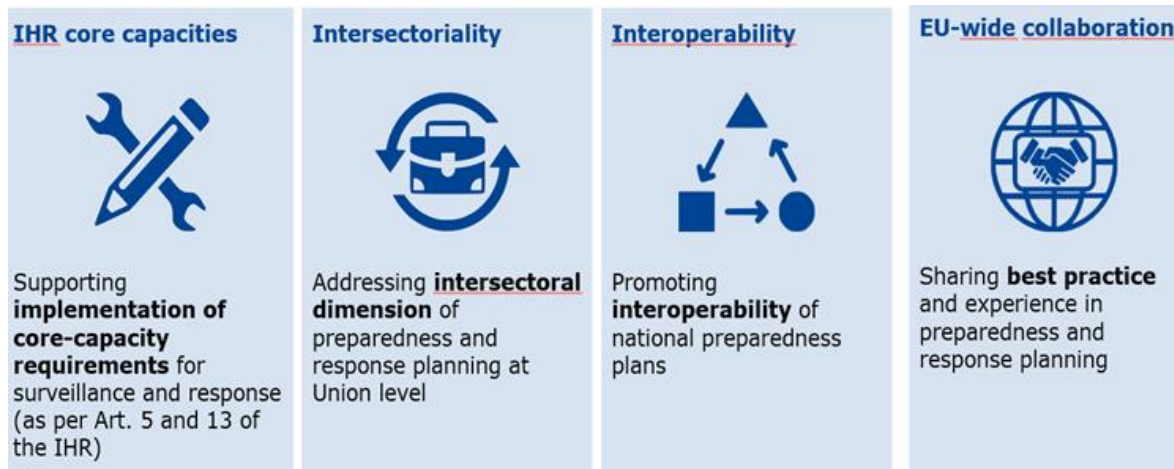
# EU health security framework – Decision 1082/2013/EU

- The Early Warning and Response System: information exchange between the Commission and Member States, EEA countries, UK\*, CH\*
- Health Security Committee
  - Health Security Committee's Communicators' network.
- Joint actions:
  - Joint Action “Healthy Gateways”: guidance and training on points of entry measures
  - SHARP (strengthened international health regulations and preparedness in the EU): guidance on laboratory preparedness

# EU health security framework – Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross- border health threats



## Preparedness





**Alert**



**Determine measures**



**Assess public health risks**



**Communicable diseases**

**Food safety**

**e.g. Chemical threats**

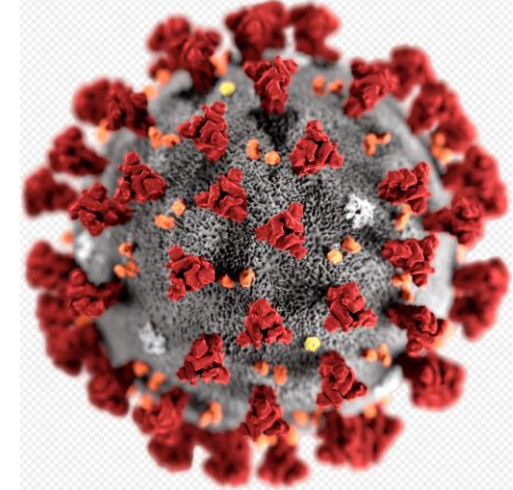
# The Health Security Committee

- To coordinate public health preparedness and response to the outbreak – 12 meetings so far on COVID-19
- Members: EU Member States, EEA countries, UK\*
- Discussing: epidemiological situation, risk assessment, capacities (public health and health care, laboratories, medical countermeasures), preparedness and response measures, and recommendations
- Member States are responsible for health policies and health actions
- EU role is to complement and support and to assist with EU policies – trade, internal market, borders, single currency, research, humanitarian assistance etc.

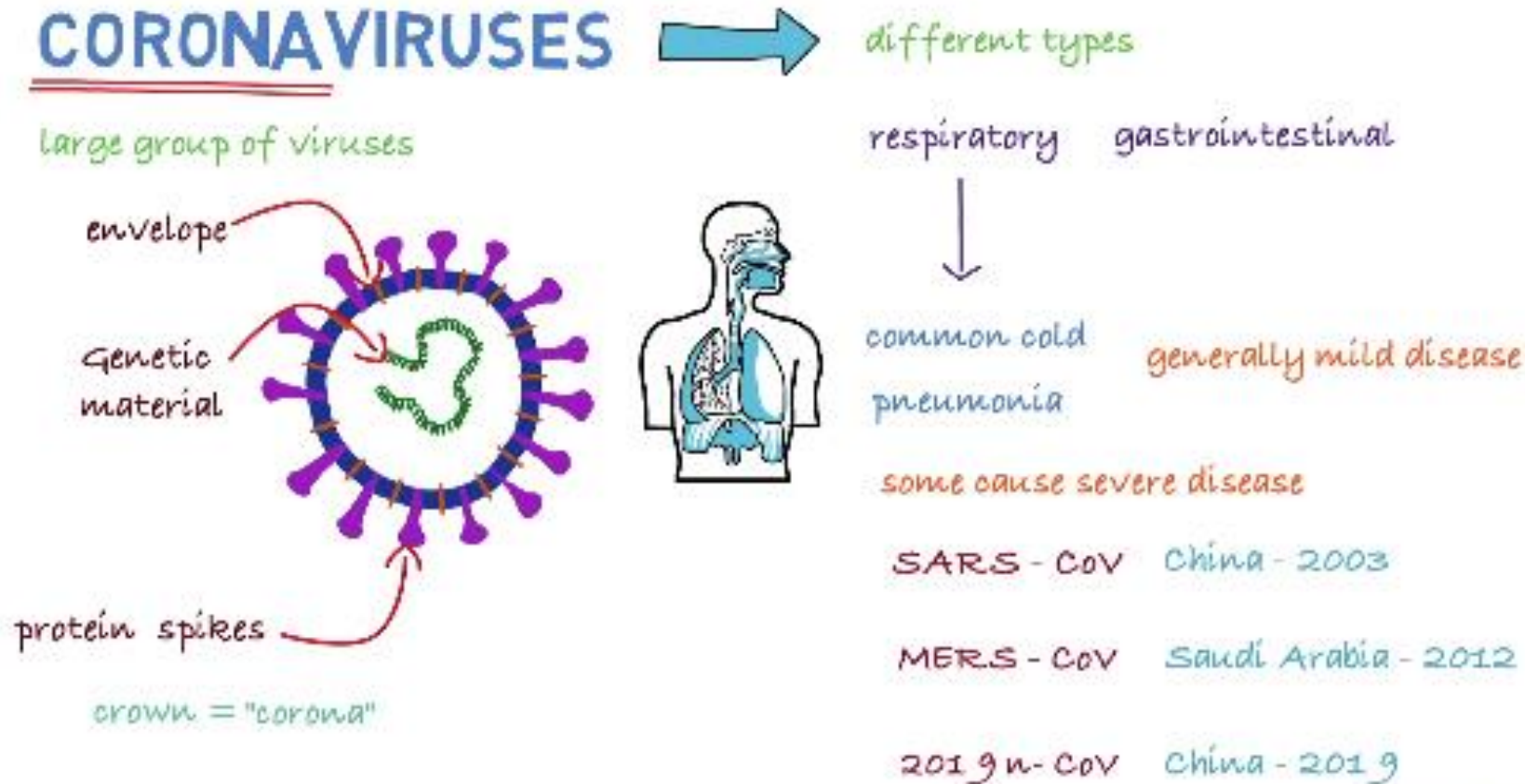


# What do we know about the novel corona virus?

- Family of “corona” viruses, a “betacoronavirus”
- Official name: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 - SARS-CoV-2
- Source: animals – bats
- Chinese researchers claimed to have discovered a "99% identical" viral nucleic acid sequence in a pangolin sample



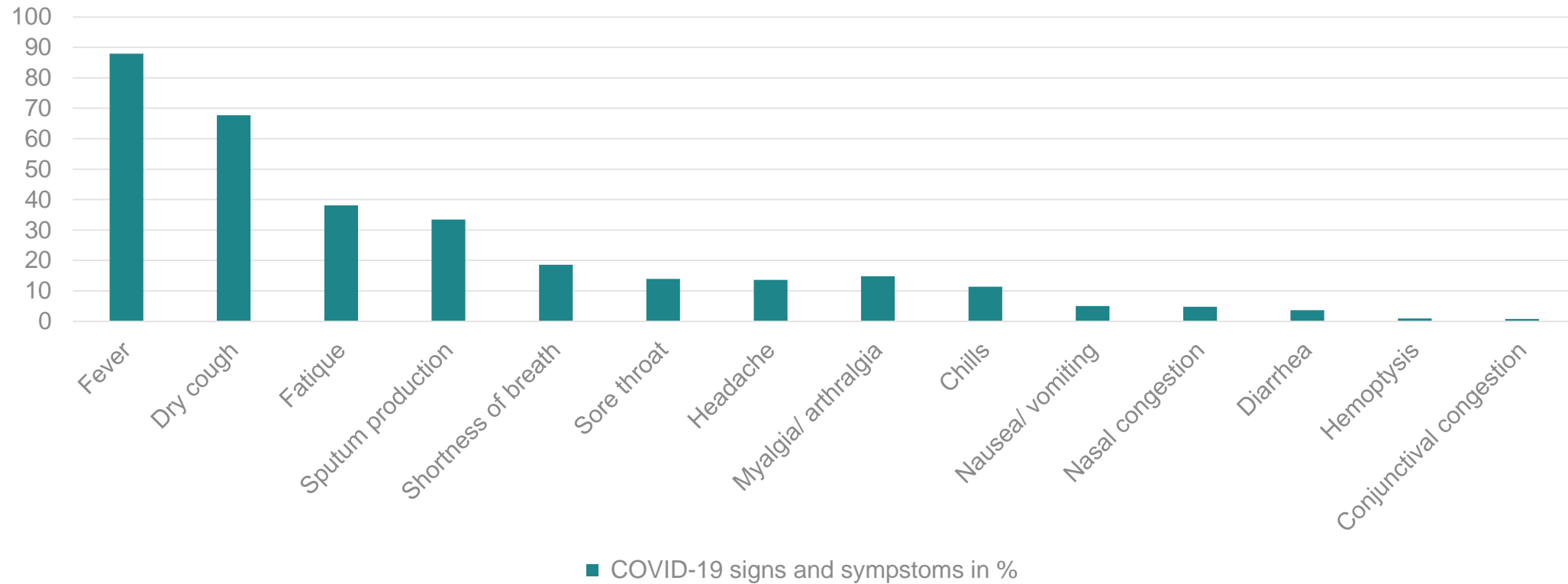
# What do we know about the novel corona virus?





# What do we know about Covid-19?

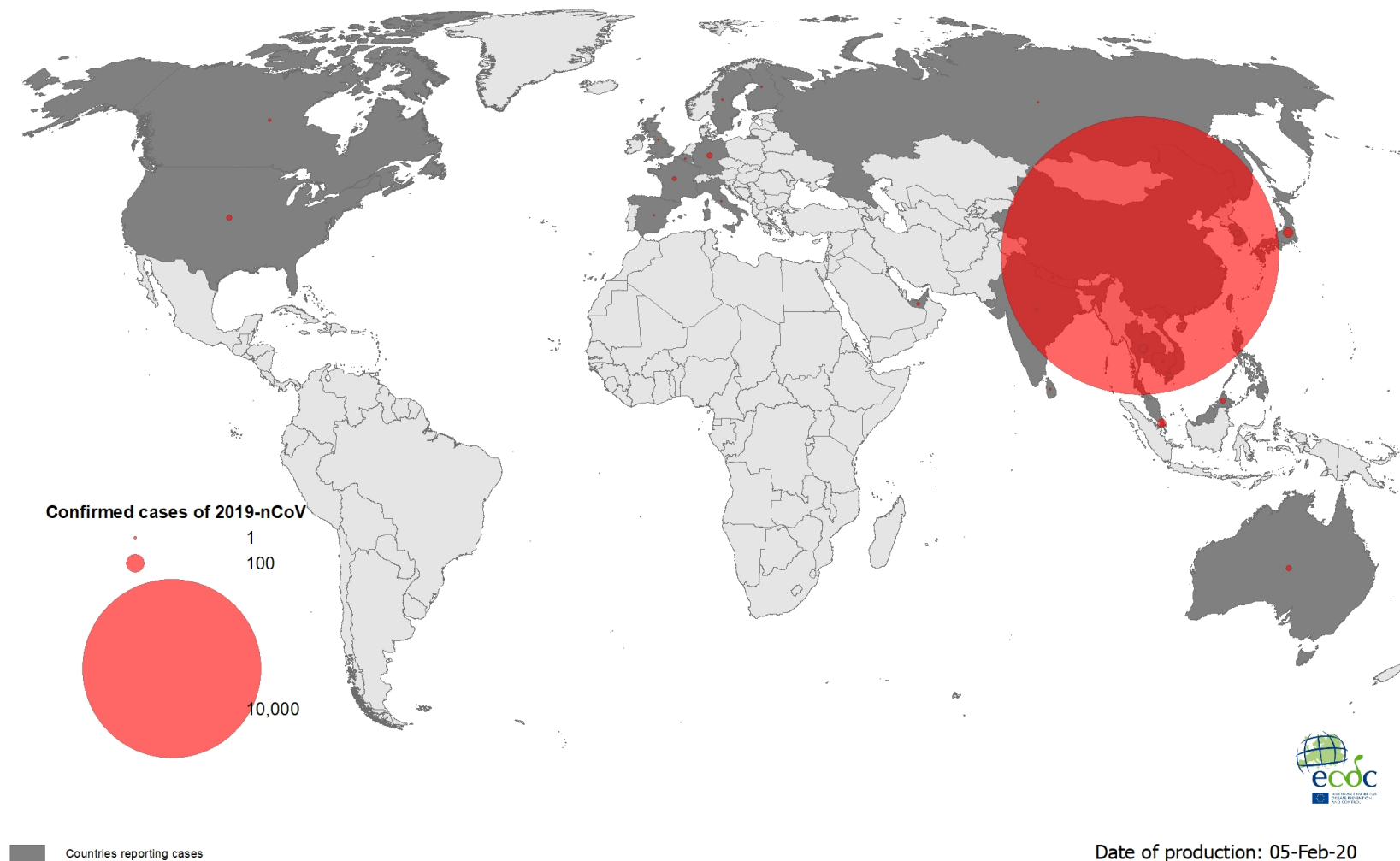
COVID-19 signs and symptoms in China (%)



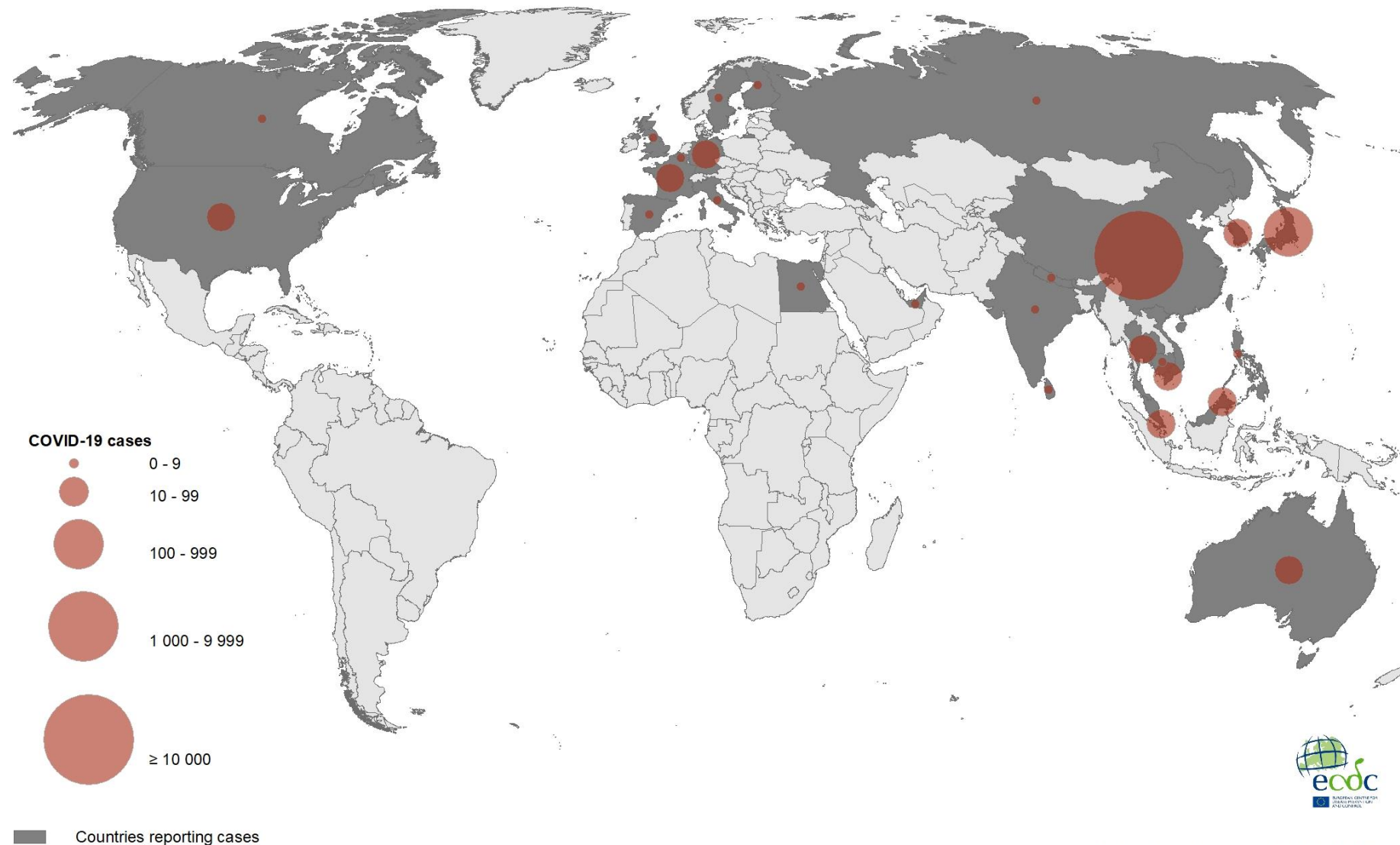
# Timeline

- 31 Dec 2019 – Cluster of pneumonia cases
- 9 Jan 2020 – China CDC reported novel Corona virus
- 9 Jan 2020 – EC activates Early Warning and Response System – EWRS
- 24 Jan 2020 – first case detected in the EU
- 30 Jan 2020 – WHO declares PHEIC
- 23 Feb 2020 – shut down in Northern Italy
- 2 Mar 2020 – EC sets-up dedicated team of (8 Commissioners & President of EC)
- 7 Mar 2020 – WHO declares more than 100 000 COVID-19 cases globally
- Since early/mid Mar 2020 – EU countries begin implementing social distancing measures
- 12 Mar 2020 – WHO declares global pandemic
- 14/15 Mar 2020 – EU countries' restrictions on internal borders
- 17 Mar 2020 – Temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU (16 March)

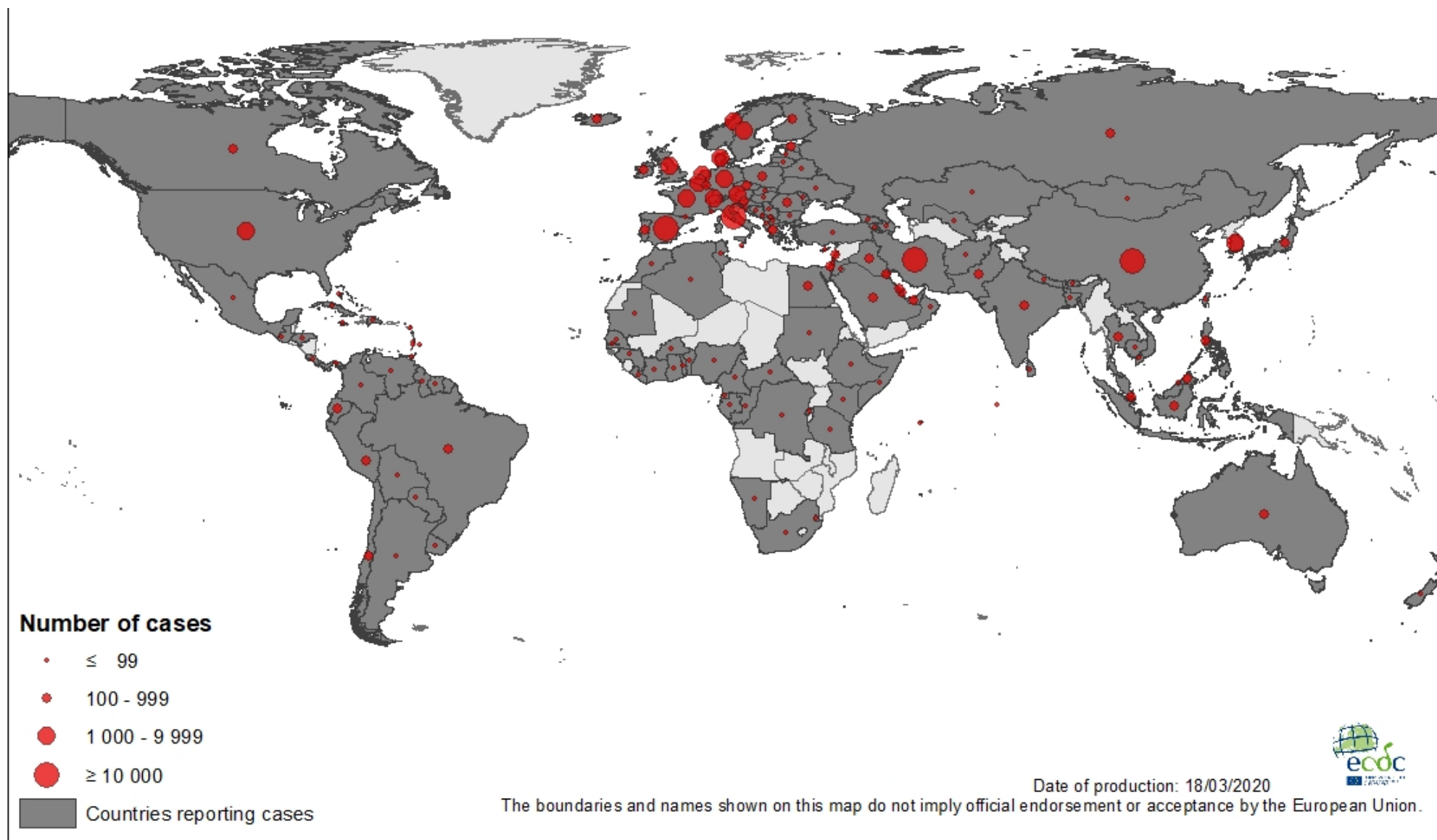
## Geographical distribution of laboratory confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV worldwide, as of 5 February 2020



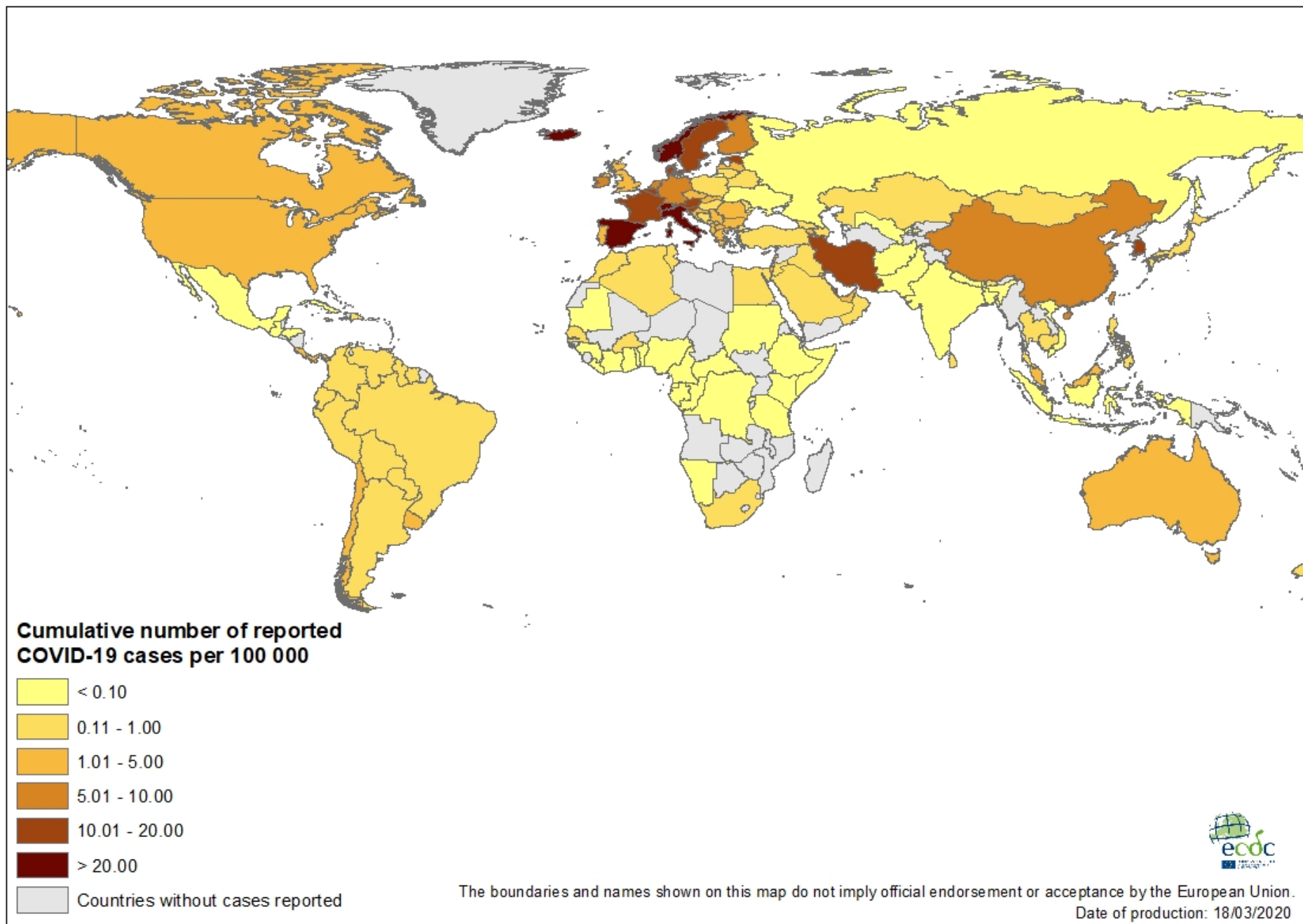
## Geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases according to the applied case definition in the related countries worldwide, as of 15 February 2020



## Geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases in accordance with the applied case definitions in the affected countries worldwide, as of 18 March 2020

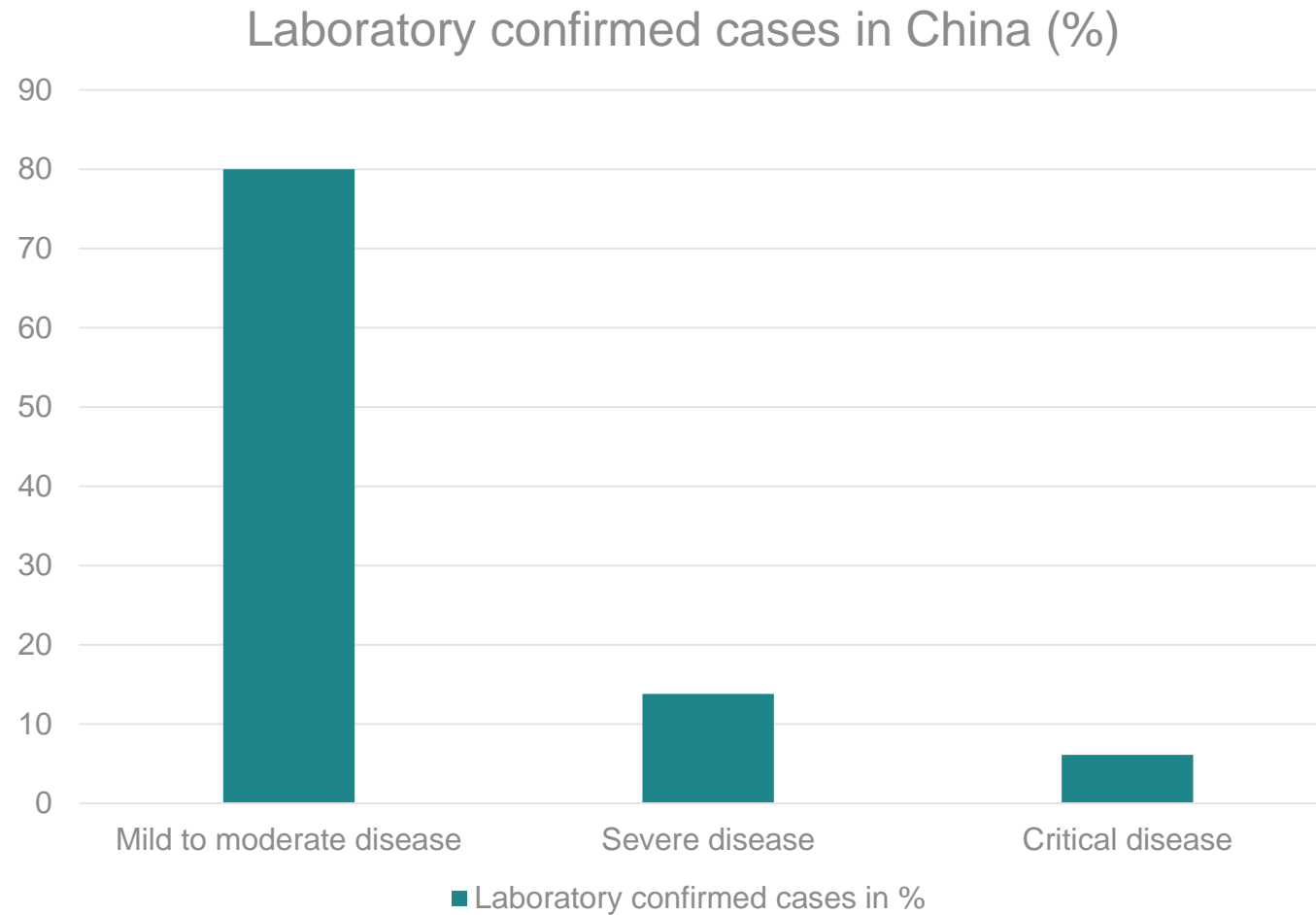






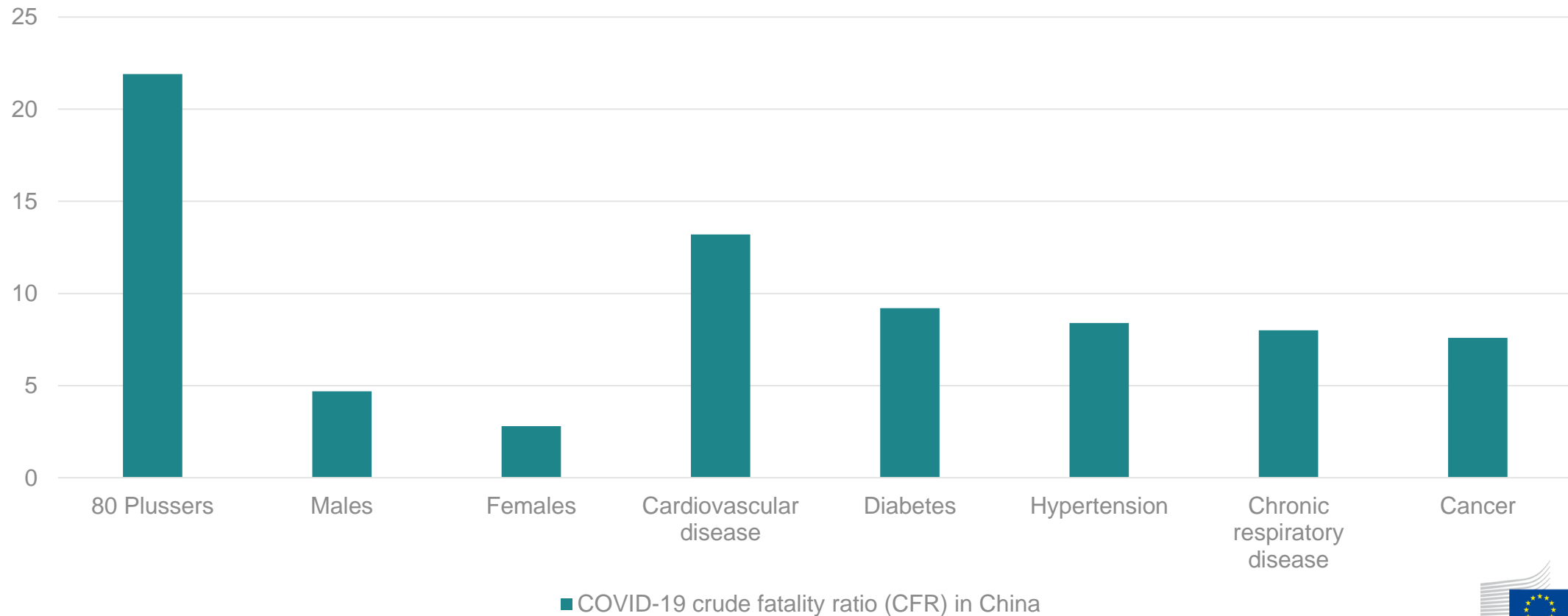
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# The situation in China: 80k cases....



# Fatality rate – China

COVID-19 crude fatality ratio (CFR) in China (%)



# Measures implemented in China

- Lock-down of several cities
- Disinfection of public places
- Stopping public transport
- Quarantine advice to citizens
- Advice to public about consumption of meat from different animals
- Surge health care capacity (e.g. construction of hospitals)

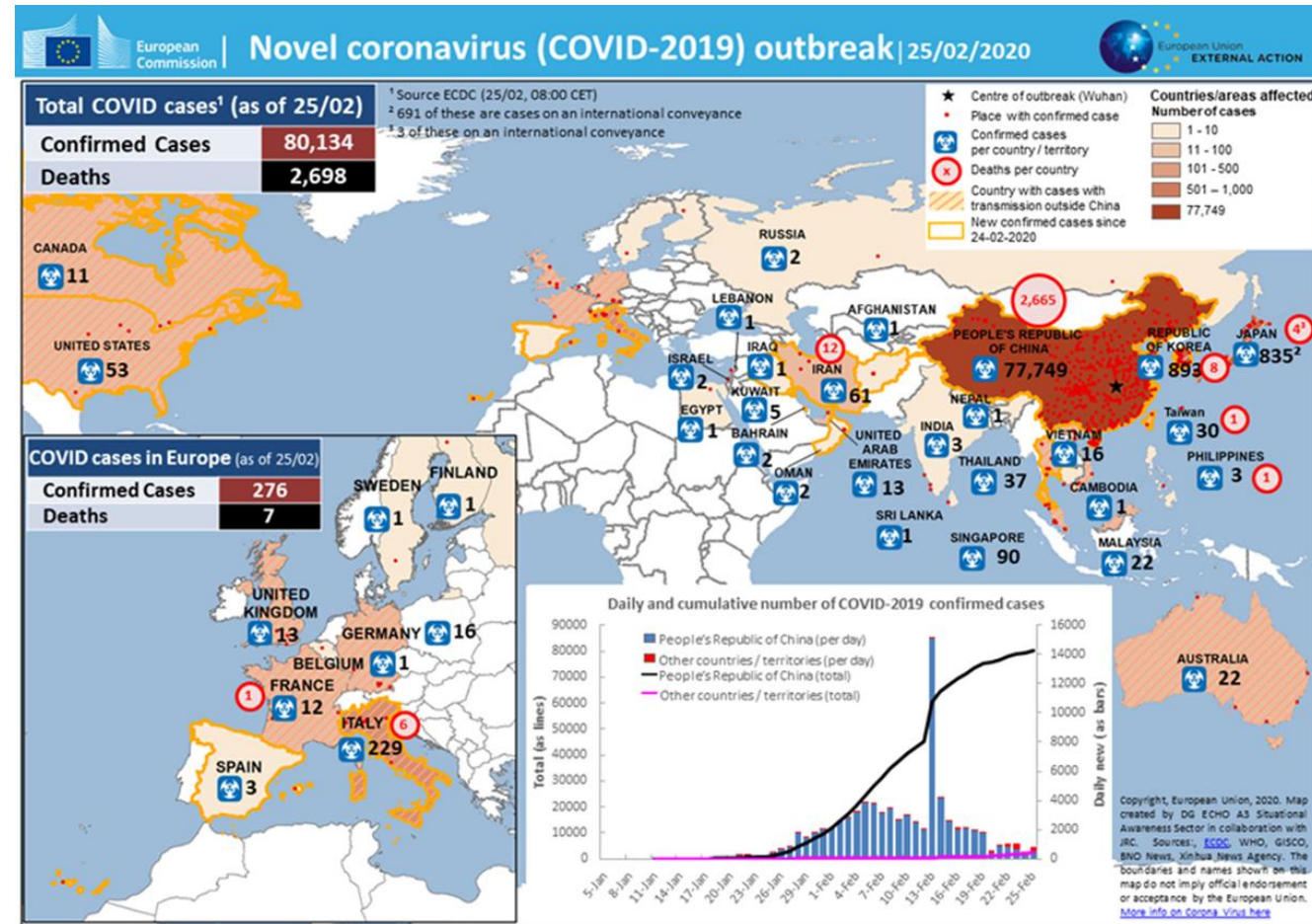
# Member States preparedness & response – weekly survey (IPCR – ISAA report)

- National inter-sectoral coordination
- Surveillance
- Travel advice and restrictions
- Points of entry measures
- Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, repatriation
- Laboratory capacity
- Case management, including medical countermeasures
- Communication including media coverage



# The European response – EC services

- Activation of EU/Member State/Agencies Integrated Political Crisis Response IPCR arrangements
- The Crisis Coordination Committee, chaired by Commissioner Lenarčič
- Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) monitoring the outbreak
- EU Civil Protection Mechanism has facilitated the repatriation of citizens from abroad (e.g. China, Japan, cruise ships)



# Measures by the Commission

- A COVID-19 coordinating **response team of Commissioners** Vestager, Dombrovskis, Gentiloni, Breton, Kyriakides, Lenarcic, Johansson, Valean in place to address the different sectors most affected
- Guidelines to Member States for health-related border management measures (16 March)
- Temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU (16 March)
- Adoption of a prior authorization for export of medical equipment (17 March)
- European team of scientific experts to anticipate events and develop guidelines and evidence-based strategies for our Union (17 March)
- Guidance on EU passenger rights (18 March)
- Multiple extraordinary Health Ministers Council meetings (plus ministers of interior)

# Measures by the Commission

## Financial resources mobilized

- €114 million- support to World Health Organization (WHO) - global preparedness and response plan.
- €15 million - to Africa, including to the Institute Pasteur Dakar, Senegal to support measures such as rapid diagnosis and epidemiological surveillance.
- €100 million - research related to diagnostics, therapeutics and prevention, including €90 million through the Innovative Medicines Initiative
- €3 million - for EU Civil Protection Mechanism for repatriation flights of EU citizens from Wuhan, China plus additional financial resources for repatriation from other locations
- €37 billion - Set up a Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative to provide liquidity to small businesses and the health care sector

# Research

- 30 January, EC released 10 million for research into virus. This was then increased to 47.5 million
- 3 March, fast track call for research proposal via Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) for a further 45 million
- 16 March, the Commission offered up to EUR 80 million of financial support to CureVac to scale up development and production of a vaccine against the Coronavirus in Europe
- Activation of research projects
  - E.g., PREPARE project on clinical trial networks

# Medical countermeasures – action by the EC

- Joint procurement procedure-1 launched for PPE – 28 Feb 2020
- Joint procurement procedure-2 launched for PPE - 15 March 2020
- Joint procurement procedure launched for ventilators – 16 March 2020
- Forthcoming: joint procurement of laboratory materials



# The European response – EU agencies

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
  - Daily epidemiologic up-dates
  - Guidance to governments, health professionals and the public
  - Mission to Member States (e.g. Italy)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA)
  - supports the development and approval of vaccines and treatments for novel coronavirus
- European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
  - Provided advice for airlines and their crews

# ECDC – Information fuer Buerger

*Insert national  
logo here*

## What is the novel coronavirus?

An outbreak of a new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is currently ongoing in China and several other countries. The virus can cause symptoms such as cough, fever and shortness of breath. In some cases it has led to more severe infections, even death.

## How does the virus spread?

You can get the infection through close contact with a person who has symptoms from the virus (mostly cough).



Insert national link here  
[www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china)

## Outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

### What do you need to know?

#### What do you do if you fall ill?

If you have been in areas with community transmission and within 14 days suddenly develop cough, fever, or shortness of breath:



If you develop cough, use a medical face mask.

1. Stay home and call XXXX for advice, mentioning that you were in an area with community transmission.
2. Seek medical advice from your primary care provider; make sure to mention that you were in an area with community transmission.
3. Go to XXXX health facility for advice and care; make sure you mention that you have been in an area with community transmission.



#### How can you protect yourself from infection?



Avoid contact with sick people, in particular those with a cough.



Wash your hands with soap and water OR use an alcohol-based disinfectant solution before eating, after using the toilet, and after any contact with animals.



Avoid meetings, events and other social gatherings in areas with ongoing community transmission



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# ECDC – risk communication

- Leaflet for pregnant women
- Leaflet for persons with chronic diseases
- Leaflet for persons with immunocompromising conditions
- Leaflet about self-isolation

## COVID-19

### How to minimise the spread of COVID-19?

Based on the current knowledge of COVID-19 and evidence available on other viral respiratory pathogens.

Simple measures can reduce the spread of the virus.

#### 2 ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES



Frequently clean used surfaces, clothes and objects



Minimise sharing objects



Ensure appropriate ventilation

#### 1 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Practice proper hand hygiene



Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw it into a bin and wash your hands



Healthy people **do not** need to wear masks



Masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and those who care for ill persons at home.

#### 3 SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Standing 1 metre away from a visibly symptomatic person



**Self-isolation** of individuals **with symptoms** of a respiratory infection is one of the most important measures for **reducing disease transmission** and limiting the spread of the virus in the community during an epidemic.

For travel advice or travel recommendations refer to official government advice.



<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/facts/infographics>

[ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china](https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china)



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# ECDC – Information for health care sector

- Infection prevention and control for COVID-19 in healthcare settings
- Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) - Discharge criteria for confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Guidance for health system contingency planning during widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 with high impact on healthcare services
- Checklist for hospitals preparing for the reception and care of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) patients
- Considerations relating to social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 epidemic

# Resources

## ECDC outputs:

- Updated case definition for EU surveillance: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/case-definition-and-european-surveillance-human-infection-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
- Public health management of persons, including health care workers, having had contact with COVID-19 cases in the European Union: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/public-health-management-persons-including-health-care-workers-having-had-contact>
- Dashboard- COVID-19 situation worldwide (interactive map): <https://gap.ecdc.europa.eu/public/extensions/COVID-19/COVID-19.html>
- Situation update worldwide, which includes data updated daily : <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>
- Weekly Communicable Disease Threats Reports
- COVID-19 Micro learning for public health professionals: [https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/totara/catalog/index.php?catalog\\_cat\\_browse=16005&orderbykey=text&itemstyle=narrow](https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/totara/catalog/index.php?catalog_cat_browse=16005&orderbykey=text&itemstyle=narrow)
- ECDC has a dedicated page with all scientific advice publications in the link below: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/coronavirus/guidance-and-technical-reports>
- All ECDC's situation updates and background on COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>.

**WHO:** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

**European Commission web:** [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en)



# EMA

- Provides free scientific advice to developers of medicines or vaccines
- Monitors - through the European medicines regulatory network - closely monitors the potential impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the human and veterinary medicine supply chains in the EU: currently, there are no reports of supply disruptions or medicine shortages in the EU linked to COVID-19.
- asks pharmaceutical industry associations, companies and manufacturers in the EU to carry out risk assessments and to inform regulators about the resilience of supply chains.

# Research and therapeutics



- ~ EUR 140 M in funding for research on COVID-19
  - EUR 47.5 M: Horizon 2020 funding for research projects on vaccine development, treatment and diagnostics
  - EUR 90 M: Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)
- The **European Medicines Agency** is supporting WHO activities regarding prioritisation of therapeutics and analysis of available evidence
- Mostly repurposed or investigational agents with antiviral activity (treatment or prophylaxis)
- A consistent approach in the EU MS with respect to **clinical trials** and selection of investigational agents for treatment is needed.
- EU-funded *Platform for European Preparedness Against (Re-) emerging Epidemics* (PREPARE): activated **Outbreak Research Response Mode 3** for COVID-19

# EU-Projects - information

- Joint Action “Healthy Gateways”:
- Advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 at points of entry in the European Union
  - Advice for **aircraft operators** for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19 acute respiratory disease
  - Advice for **ship operators** for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19
  - Advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 at **ground crossings** (buses and bus stations) in the European Union

## Current situation

- Exponential increase in Covid-19 cases in EU
- Member States activated pandemic preparedness plans.
- Health sector overwhelmed in Italy and under great strain in other countries
- Lack of sufficient surge capacity in health care – especially for respiratory support – whole EU.
- PPE needs across EU
- Shortages of PCR testing – widespread

# “Fake news”

No. Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body. Spraying such substances can be harmful to clothes or mucous membranes (i.e., eyes, mouth). Be aware that both alcohol and chlorine can be useful to disinfect surfaces, but they need to be used under appropriate recommendations.



#2019nCoV

Can spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body kill the new coronavirus?

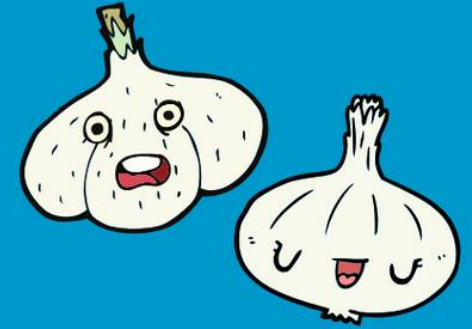


Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties. However, there is no evidence from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV)



#2019nCoV

Can eating garlic help prevent infection with the new coronavirus?



# Response measures, including social distancing

- Social distancing measures were introduced by countries
  - e.g, closure of schools, public places, mass gatherings, workplace, commercial activities
- Individual distancing
  - e.g., contact tracing, quarantine and self isolation
- Travel restrictions and points of entry measures
  - Border control measures, checks and entry/exit screening, border closure
- Disruption to travel, supply chains, economy
- Business continuity in critical sectors and emergency response is key
- Communication is critical

# Future developments?