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# 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Outbreak: CRS Experts

**Sarah A. Lister**

Specialist in Public Health and Epidemiology

January 31, 2020

**Congressional Research Service**

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[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

R46209

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China. Illnesses have since been linked to a new strain of coronavirus, designated 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV.<sup>1</sup> As of January 30, 2020, WHO reports that more than 7,800 people have been infected, and 170 have died. Most cases and deaths are in China. The disease has spread to several other countries, including the United States. As the scope of the epidemic widened in China, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated on January 30, 2020, that its “assessment remains that the immediate risk to the American public is low.”<sup>2</sup> The situation is rapidly changing, however, and both WHO and CDC post frequent updates.<sup>3</sup> For more information about the U.S. response to this new threat, see CRS Insight IN11212, *Another Coronavirus Emerges: U.S. Domestic Response to 2019-nCoV*, and CRS In Focus IF11421, *Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV): Developments in China and International Response*.

The following table lists names and contact information for CRS experts on policy concerns involving the outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Policy areas identified include

- public health, virology, and epidemiology;
- international response activities;  
domestic response activities; and
- legal issues.

Legislative Issues	Name/Title	Phone	Email
<b>Public health, virology, epidemiology</b>			
	<b>Sarah A. Lister</b> Specialist in Public Health and Epidemiology	7-....	/redacted/@crs.loc.gov
	<b>Kavya Sekar</b> Analyst in Health Policy	7-....	/redacted/@crs.loc.gov
<b>International response activities</b>			
General, outbreak response	<b>Sara M. Tharakan</b> Analyst in Global Health and International Development	7-....	/redacted/@crs.loc.gov
General, World Health Organization (WHO), international authorities	<b>Tiaji Salaam-Blyther</b> Specialist in Global Health	7-....	/redacted/@crs.loc.gov
China: general	<b>Susan V. Lawrence</b> Specialist in Asian Affairs	7-....	/redacted/@crs.loc.gov
China: economics and trade	<b>Karen M. Sutter</b> Specialist in Asian Trade and Finance	7-....	/redacted/@crs.loc.gov

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), “Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV),” <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), telebriefing transcript, January 30, 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/t0130-novel-coronavirus-update-telebriefing.html>.

<sup>3</sup> WHO, “Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation reports,” <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>; and CDC, “2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Situation Summary,” <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>.

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### Domestic response activities

Public health, Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), funding

**Sarah A. Lister**  
Specialist in Public Health and Epidemiology

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

**Kavya Sekar**  
Analyst in Health Policy

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

Medical countermeasures (tests, vaccines, treatments)

**Agata Dabrowska**  
Analyst in Health Policy

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

**Frank Gottron**  
Specialist in Science and Technology Policy

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

**Kavya Sekar**  
Analyst in Health Policy

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

**Edward C. Liu**  
Legislative Attorney

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

Biodefense

**Frank Gottron**  
Specialist in Science and Technology Policy

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

Border Screening, Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

**Audrey Singer**  
Specialist in Immigration Policy

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

Transportation Sector/Aviation

**Bart Elias**  
Specialist in Aviation Policy

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

**Rachel Y. Tang**  
Analyst in Transportation and Industry

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

### Legal issues

Isolation and quarantine, medical countermeasures

**Edward C. Liu**  
Legislative Attorney

7-.... /redacted/@crs.loc.gov

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## Author Contact Information

Sarah A. Lister  
Specialist in Public Health and Epidemiology  
/redacted/@crs.loc.gov...

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