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Coronavirus Disease Outbreak (COVID-19): CRS Experts

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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 Coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19. The disease has spread to many other countries, including the United States. The situation is rapidly changing, and both WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) post frequent updates.¹ CRS products on the outbreak are available on the “COVID-19” Hot Topic at <https://www.crs.gov/>.

The following table lists names and contact information for CRS experts on policy concerns involving the COVID-19 outbreak. Policy areas identified include

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

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
Public Health—General			
	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
Public Health—Disease and Epidemiology			
	Laurie A. Harris Analyst in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Sarah A. Lister Specialist in Public Health and Epidemiology	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
International Response Activities			
General, outbreak response	Sara M. Tharakan Analyst in Global Health and International Development	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
General, World Health Organization (WHO), international authorities	Tiaji Salaam-Blyther Specialist in Global Health	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
State Department	Cory R. Gill Analyst in Foreign Affairs	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
China: Economics and trade	Karen M. Sutter Specialist in Asian Trade and Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

¹ WHO, “Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports,” <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>; and CDC, “Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary,” <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>.

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
International economic effects	Andres B. Schwarzenberg Analyst in International Trade and Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Multilateral Economic Institutions: World Bank, International Monetary Fund	Martin A. Weiss Specialist in International Trade and Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Legal and illegal wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases	Pervaze A. Sheikh Specialist in Natural Resources Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Katarina C. O'Regan Analyst in Foreign Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Domestic Response Activities			
Health: 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
	Laurie A. Harris Analyst in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Medical countermeasures (tests, vaccines, treatments, patent issues)	Agata Dabrowska Analyst in Health Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Amanda K. Sarata Specialist 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
	Laurie A. Harris Analyst in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Biodefense	Frank Gottron Specialist in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Private health insurance, essential health benefits	Vanessa C. Forsberg Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Private health insurance, surprise medical billing	Ryan J. Rosso Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Noah D. Isserman Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Nursing home and home health agency oversight	Phoenix Voorhies Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility and Benefits	Evelyne P. Baumrucker Specialist in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
Health: Medicaid and CHIP Financing	Alison Mitchell Specialist in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Telehealth Medicare	Jim Hahn Specialist in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Telehealth Medicaid	Alison Mitchell Specialist in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Medicare Physician Issues	Jim Hahn Specialist in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Medicare Hospital Payments	Marco A. Villagrana Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Medicare Advantage	Paulette C. Morgan Specialist in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Food: child nutrition programs during school closures, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	Kara Clifford Billings Analyst in Social Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Food: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	Randy Alison Aussenberg Specialist in Nutrition Assistance Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Paid and Unpaid Leave	Sarah A. Donovan Specialist in Labor Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
School and University Closures and Online Operations	Rebecca R. Skinner Specialist in Education Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Alexandra Hegji Analyst in Social Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Cassandra Dortch Specialist in Education Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Border screening, Customs and Border Protection (CBP)	Audrey Singer Specialist in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Transportation: Aviation	Rachel Y. Tang Analyst in Transportation and Industry	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Bart Elias Specialist in Aviation Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Broadband and Digital Divide	Colby Leigh Rachfal Analyst in Telecommunications Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Temporary Assistance: Short-term loans for repatriated U.S. citizens	Karen E. Lynch Specialist in Social Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Economics: Economic effects	Marc Labonte Specialist in Macroeconomic Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Economics: Tax and spending options	Mark P. Keightley Specialist in Economics	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
	Don Marples Specialist in Public Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Molly F. Sherlock Specialist in Public Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Economics: Small Business Administration (SBA)	Bruce R. Lindsay Analyst in American National Government	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Tax Credits, Paid Sick Leave, and Paid Family and Medical Leave	Molly F. Sherlock Specialist in Public Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Election Administration and Voting	R. Sam Garrett Specialist in American National Government	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Emergency Management: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Bruce R. Lindsay Analyst in American National Government	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Erica A. Lee Analyst in Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Elizabeth M. Webster Analyst in Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Employment, Labor: Unemployment Insurance (UI), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)	Katelin P. Isaacs Specialist in Income Security	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Julie M. Whittaker Specialist in Income Security	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Employment, Labor: Occupational safety and health, workers' compensation	Scott D. Szymendera Analyst in Disability Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Employment, Labor: State Temporary Disability Insurance	Will Morton Analyst in Disability Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Legal Issues			
Isolation and Quarantine	Edward C. Liu Legislative Attorney	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Vaccines, Treatments, Patent Issues	Kevin J. Hickey Legislative Attorney	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Border Screening, Customs and Border Protection (CBP)	Ben Harrington Legislative Attorney	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

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