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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: 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 under the “Coronavirus Resources” banner 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, GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, vaccines and therapeutics	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
General foreign assistance response	Emily M. Morgenstern Analyst in Foreign Assistance and Foreign Policy	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
Peace Corps response	Nick M. Brown Analyst in Foreign Assistance and Foreign Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Humanitarian issues and displaced populations	Rhoda Margesson Specialist in International Humanitarian Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Sanctions Policy	Dianne E. Rennack Specialist in Foreign Policy Legislation	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
National security	Kathleen J. McInnis Specialist in International Security	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	John W. Rollins Specialist in Terrorism and National Security	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Biological Weapons Convention	Paul K. Kerr Specialist in Nonproliferation	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Mary Beth D. Nikitin Specialist in Nonproliferation	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
China: Political issues and foreign affairs	Susan V. Lawrence Specialist in Asian Affairs	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
China: Supply chains, economics and trade	Karen M. Sutter Specialist in Asian Trade and Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Michael D. Sutherland Analyst in International Trade and Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Andres B. Schwarzenberg Analyst in International Trade and Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
International economic effects	Martin A. Weiss Specialist in International Trade and Finance	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Rebecca M. Nelson 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			
Economics and Employment			
Economics: Consumer Finance and Credit Reporting	Cheryl R. Cooper Analyst in Financial Economics	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Andrew P. Scott Analyst in Financial Economics	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
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
	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
	Robert Jay Dilger Senior Specialist in American National Government	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
Immigration and Criminal Justice			
Criminal Justice: Health Care in Jails and Prisons	Nathan James Analyst in Crime Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Criminal Justice: COVID-19 Related Cybercrime and Fraud	Kristin Finklea Specialist in Domestic Security	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Eligibility for Public Benefits and Public Charge	Abigail F. Kolker Analyst in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Health Care Immigration Detention	Audrey Singer Specialist in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Border screening, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Detention and Removal, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	Audrey Singer Specialist in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Foreign Health Care Workers	Jill H. Wilson Analyst in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Non-Immigrant Visas	Jill H. Wilson Analyst in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
Immigration: Temporary Worker Programs (H2A and H2B)	Andorra Bruno Specialist in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Immigration: Immigrant Visas	William A. Kandel Analyst in Immigration Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Industry			
Agriculture: Markets and USDA Income Support Programs	Randy Schnepf Specialist in Agricultural Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Agriculture: Livestock, Meat, and Dairy	Joel Greene Analyst in Agricultural Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Agriculture: USDA, Farm Credits and Loans, Section 32 Commodity Purchases	James Monke Specialist in Agricultural Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Agriculture: Produce and Specialty Crops	Renee Johnson Specialist in Agricultural 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
Federal Communications Commission	Angele A. Gilroy Specialist in Telecommunications Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Colby Leigh Rachfal Analyst in Telecommunications Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Critical Infrastructure	Brian E. Humphreys Analyst in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Legal			
Isolation and Quarantine	Edward C. Liu Legislative Attorney	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Emergency Authorities	Jennifer K. Elsea 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
Procurement, Defense Production Act	David H. Carpenter Legislative Attorney	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
Medicare and Medicaid			
Health: Medicare and Medicaid Oversight	Cliff Binder Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Medicare and Medicaid Part B Prescription Drugs	Cliff Binder 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
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	Evelyne P. Baumrucker 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 Ambulance 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
Health: Nursing home and home health agency oversight	Phoenix Voorhies Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Nutrition Programs and Income Security			
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
Payments to Social Security and Certain Other Federal Beneficiaries	William R. Morton Analyst in Income Security Paul S. Davies Specialist in Income Security	7-.... 7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov -redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Payments to Veterans	Heather M. Salazar Analyst in Veterans Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
Retirement: Withdrawals, required distributions, and pension funding relief	John J. Topoleski Specialist in Income Security	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Elizabeth A. Myers Analyst in Income Security	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
Other			
Federal Manufacturing Research and Development	John F. Sargent, Jr. Specialist in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Child care	Karen E. Lynch Specialist in Social Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
2020 Census	Jennifer D. Williams Specialist in American National Government	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Effects on Federally Funded Intramural and Extramural R&D	John F. Sargent, Jr. Specialist in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Daniel Morgan Specialist in Science and Technology Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Defense Production Act	Michael H. Cecire Analyst in Intergovernmental Relations and Economic Development Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Heidi M. Peters Analyst in U.S. Defense Acquisition 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
Congressional Operations	Ida A. Brudnick Specialist on the Congress	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	R. Eric Petersen Specialist in American National Government	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Congressional Procedure	Chris Davis Analyst on Congress and the Legislative Process	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Elizabeth Rybicki Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

Legislative Issue	Name/Title	Phone	Email
Judicial Operations	Barry J. McMillion 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
	Diane P. Horn Analyst in Flood Insurance and Emergency Management	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Diane P. Horn Analyst in Flood Insurance and Emergency Management	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Emergency Management: Business interruption insurance, pandemic insurance	Baird Webel Acting Section Research Manager	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Private Health Insurance			
Health: Private health insurance, health tax credits	Bernadette Fernandez Specialist in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Private health insurance, covered benefits, exchanges	Vanessa C. Forsberg Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Private health insurance, surprise medical billing, employer sponsored coverage, including COBRA coverage, health related tax-advantaged accounts (e.g., HSAs, FSAs)	Ryan J. Rosso Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Health: Private health insurance, surprise medical billing, telehealth	Noah D. Isserman Analyst in Health Care Financing	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Public Health			

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: Behavioral health	Johnathan H. Duff Analyst in Health 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: Drug Enforcement Administration's Regulatory Role	Lisa N. Sacco Analyst in Illicit Drugs and Crime Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
Drinking Water Quality and Supply	Elena H. Humphreys Analyst in Environmental Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov
	Mary Tiemann Specialist in Environmental Policy	7-....	-redacted-@crs.loc.gov

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