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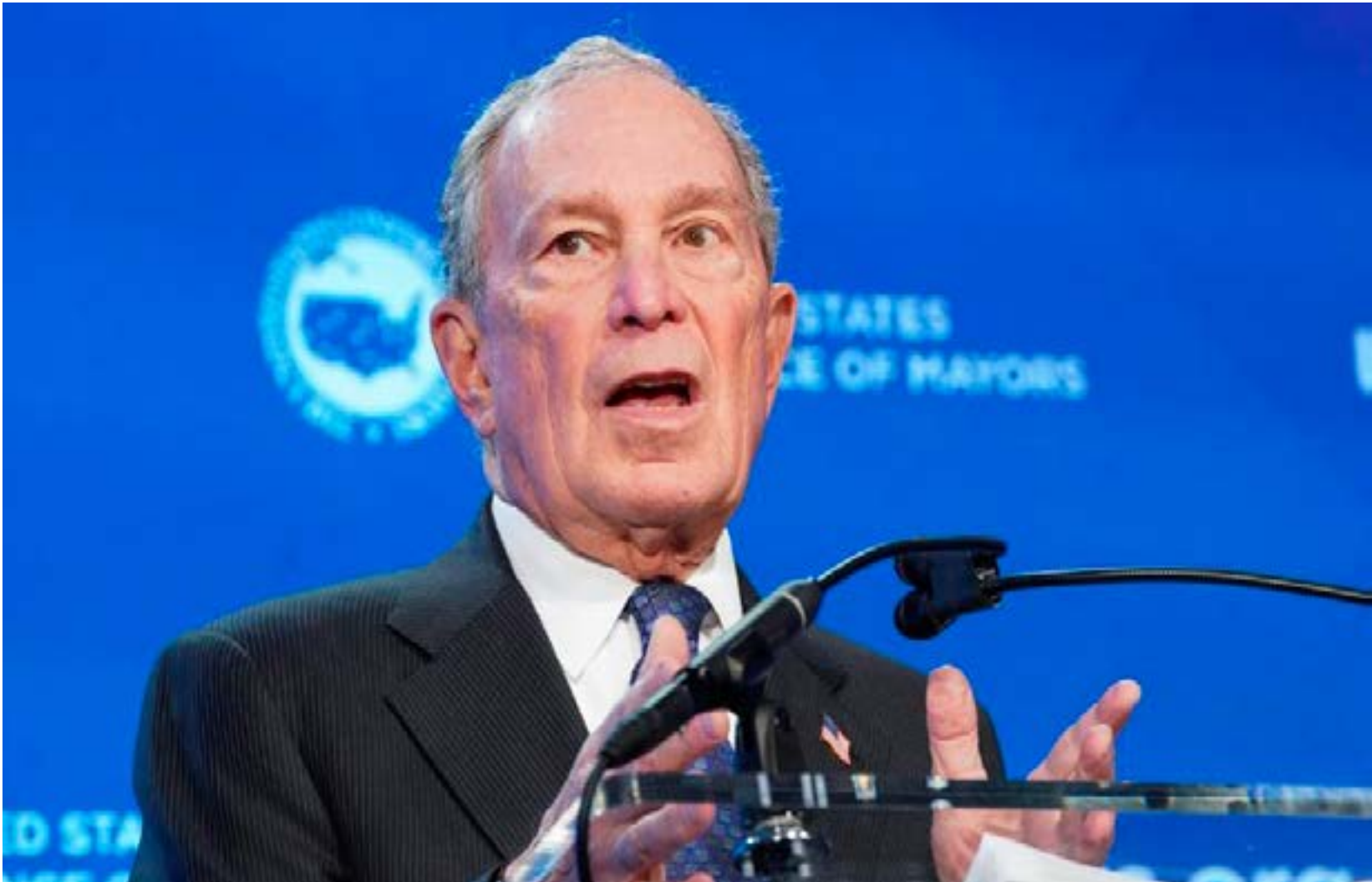
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Billionaire U.S. candidate Bloomberg floats plan to tax rich people ‘like me’



FILE PHOTO: Democratic presidential candidate, former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, speaks before the United States Conference of Mayors in Washington, U.S., January 22, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg on Saturday proposed major tax hikes on wealthy Americans and corporations, including a new tax aimed at people earning more than \$5 million per year.

FILE PHOTO: Democratic presidential candidate, former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, speaks before the United States Conference of Mayors in Washington, U.S., January 22, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque
Bloomberg's campaign estimates the measures will raise about \$5 trillion over ten years.

All major Democratic candidates have called for higher taxes on the rich and Bloomberg's plan helps situate the billionaire former mayor of New York as a relative moderate among Democrats hoping to challenge Republican Donald Trump in the November election.

The proposals bear similarities with those of moderate frontrunner Joe Biden.

Like Biden, Bloomberg advocates rolling back tax cuts for well-off Americans enacted under Trump, as well as charging higher tax rates on profits earned by the wealthy on asset sales. Also like Biden, he wants to raise the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21%.

But Bloomberg also aims squarely at the incomes of

hyper-rich individuals like himself, with an approach similar in spirit to new wealth taxes proposed by progressive frontrunners Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Bloomberg made his estimated \$60 billion fortune selling financial information to Wall Street. When it comes to taxing the super rich, his approach differs from Sanders and Warren in that it would tax income rather than assets. While Sanders proposes new taxes on the wealth of the richest 0.1% of America, Bloomberg would put a 5% surtax on annual incomes above \$5 million, hitting a similarly narrow 0.1% of U.S. taxpayers. Tax experts have warned that taxing wealth - rather than income - might get bogged down in legal challenges. Bloomberg's campaign agrees. "Most importantly, my plan is achievable," the candidate said in a statement. The campaign did not provide estimates on how much revenue each policy was expected to bring in. A policy advisor said some of the heaviest lifting would be done by higher corporate taxes and by taxing profits on asset sales - known as capital gains - at the same rate as normal income when a taxpayer earns more than \$1 million a year. Bloomberg's campaign says the plan would help fight economic inequality and pay for the candidate's major spending proposals, which include expanding health insurance coverage and repairing roads and bridges. "Those investments require new revenue - and a fairer, more progressive tax system that asks wealthy Americans like me to pay more," Bloomberg said. Economic inequality is much higher in America than in most

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Editor's Choice



Feb 1, 2020; Scottsdale, Arizona, USA; Bryson DeChambeau tees off on the tenth during the third round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament at TPC Scottsdale. Mandatory Credit: Joe Camporeale-USA TODAY Sports



A man wears a masks in Chinatown following the outbreak of a new coronavirus, in Chicago



FILE PHOTO: Passengers arrive at LAX from Shanghai, China, after a positive case of the coronavirus was announced in the Orange County suburb of Los Angeles, California, U.S., January 26, 2020. REUTERS/Ringo Chiu/File Photo



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden attends a campaign event in North Liberty, Iowa, U.S., February 1, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Former Secretary of State John Kerry speaks during a campaign event in support of Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden in North Libery, Iowa, U.S., February 1, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



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A model poses for a portrait backstage as she wears a creation by Claudina Mata during the International Flamenco Fashion Show SIMOF in the Andalusian capital of Seville, Spain February 1, 2020. REUTERS/Marcelo del Pozo TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A supporter of Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) wearing a Statue of Liberty mask poses for a selfie before a campaign event in Cedar Rapids

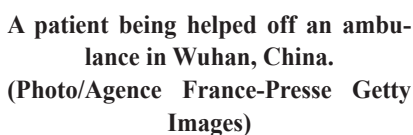
As The Coronavirus Explodes, China Becomes More Isolated



Australians flown home from Wuhan, China, will be quarantined on an island for two weeks. Americans, also evacuated from Wuhan, will be “temporarily housed” on an air base in California. And in South Korea, the police have been empowered to detain people who refuse to be quarantined.

For countries outside China, the time to prevent an epidemic is now, when cases are few and can be isolated. They are trying to seize the moment to protect themselves against the coronavirus outbreak, which has reached every province in China, sickening more than 7,700 people and killing 170.

China, with nearly 1.4 billion people, is the most populous nation on Earth, and it has taken extreme measures to try to stop the disease, first reported in December in Wuhan, a city of 11 million. The government has stopped travel in and out of that city and surrounding ones, effectively locking down tens of millions of people. "The fact that to date we have only seen 68 cases outside China and no deaths is due in no small part to the extraordinary steps the government has taken to prevent the export of cases," Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization, said at a news briefing on Wednesday. But the disease has spread far and wide inside China and, with extensive worldwide travel by its citizens, especially during the celebration of the Lunar New Year, countries everywhere are bracing for the arrival of more new cases. Person-to-person transmission is occurring, and cases have turned up in several countries with people who have not visited China. Mentioning those cases, Dr. Tedros said the potential for further global spread was one of the reasons he had called on the W.H.O.'s emergency committee to meet again on Thursday to decide whether to declare the epidemic a public health emergency of international concern. The committee met twice last week but was split about whether to declare an emergency, saying it did not have enough information to decide.



"I think things are going to get worse before they get better," Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States, said in a podcast posted on Tuesday by the medical journal JAMA.



If China can somehow contain its outbreak, and if other countries with cases can prevent sustained transmission, Dr. Fauci said that it might be possible to end the outbreak, just as the coronavirus that caused the SARS epidemic in 2003 was



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As The Coronavirus Explodes, China Becomes More Isolated



If efforts to contain an outbreak fail, public health authorities will focus on “mitigation”—dealing with the disease and trying to minimize the harm it does to people and communities.

“It’s a worrisome situation in China,” Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said in an interview on Wednesday. “It seems like more of a mitigation strategy than a control strategy that China has moved to.”

The United States still has a chance to avoid China’s fate, she said.

But the five patients have had hundreds of contacts. Some are being tested for the virus, and the results may help researchers understand how the disease is transmitted. The C.D.C. is also monitoring more than 100 “patients under investigation” — some with cough or fever who have been to Wuhan, or have had contact with a patient.



But if the case count were to increase exponentially, Dr. Messonnier said, it would be hard to continue the concerted containment efforts. The C.D.C. is already gearing up should the approach need to evolve to mitigation strategies like closing schools, preventing public gatherings and helping hospitals prepare for a surge of cases.

One troubling question is whether infected people can start spreading the virus before they themselves get sick. Chinese health officials have said they believe such transmission has taken place. If it happened often, it could make stopping an outbreak much harder.

The reason is that the first step in halting outbreaks has traditionally been to identify people who are ill and then stop them from infecting others, usually by isolating them. But that approach will not work as well if people without any symptoms are already transmitting the disease.

Dr. Fauci said that epidemics are fueled by people with symptoms — like sneezing and coughing, which help spray the virus around — and not by those without symptoms, even if some of them can spread the virus. Dr. Frieden said if asymptomatic people do transmit some virus, sick patients are likely to spread a lot more.

People with colds or flu can spread virus-

es for a day or two before they become ill, but how big a role that plays in outbreaks is not known, researchers say.

In any case, flu spreads worldwide every year, infecting tens of millions of people. And the spread of the new coronavirus is starting to resemble that of seasonal flu, said Dr. Michael T. Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.



Among patients with the Wuhan coronavirus, about 20 percent have become seriously ill, and the rest have a mild illness, the W.H.O. said at a news briefing on Wednesday. So far, the death rate appears to be about 2 percent, but that is not certain yet. Those who die tend to be older people with underlying ailments. The median age of the first 425 patients in China was 59, and a little more than half were male, according to a report published in The New England Journal of Medicine on Wednesday.

Diseases caused by related coronaviruses are deadlier: SARS killed 10 percent, and MERS about 35 percent.

Seasonal flu, with a much lower overall death rate of 0.1 percent, kills more than half a million people worldwide every year. At least 8,200 people in the United States have died during this flu season, according to estimates from the C.D.C. (Courtesy <https://www.nytimes.com/>)

Related

A deadly new virus. Thousands of people infected. No cure. No vaccine. Scientists race to develop a vaccine for the Coronavirus

In the past five years alone, the world has faced outbreaks of Ebola, Zika, another coronavirus called Mers (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), and now the vi-

rus simply known as “2019-nCoV”.

It’s already infected thousands of people and killed more than 100.

But unlike in many previous outbreaks, where vaccines to protect people have taken years to develop, research for a vaccine to help stem this outbreak got under way within hours of the virus being identified.

Chinese officials released its genetic code very quickly. That information helps scientists determine where the virus probably came from, how it might mutate as the outbreak develops, and how to protect people against it.

With technological advances and greater commitment from governments around the world to fund research on emerging diseases, research facilities were able to spring into action fast.



Scientists hope to have a vaccine ready to enter human trial by early summer. Unprecedented speed

At Inovio’s lab in San Diego, scientists are using a relatively new type of DNA technology to develop a potential vaccine. “INO-4800” - as it’s currently called - with plans for it to enter human trials by the early summer.

Inovio says if the initial human trials are a success, larger trials would follow, ideally in an outbreak setting in China “by the end of the year”.

The work in these labs is being funded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (Cepi), which is made up of and funded by governments and philanthropic organizations from around the world.

It was created in the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to provide

funding to accelerate the development of vaccines for new diseases.

The WHO is co-ordinating this global quest for a new vaccine. It says it is following the progress of a number of research facilities, including the three supported by Cepi.



Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar led a news conference about the federal government’s response to the outbreak of coronavirus. The conference included CDC’s Robert Redfield, left, Nancy Messonnier and Anthony Fauci from the NIH.

Although efforts to come up with a vaccine for this new coronavirus have been accelerated, research is still at an early stage at all the facilities in the race to find a new vaccine. Clinical trials take time and are best carried out within an outbreak setting.

There are no guarantees any of the designs so far will be safe and effective enough to be used in the outbreak in China.

Ana Maria Henao-Restrepo from the WHO’s Health Emergencies program said:

“Understanding the disease, its reservoirs, its transmission, its clinical severity and developing effective counter measures is critical for the control of the outbreak.”

The WHO is due to decide which vaccine will be tested on humans first in the coming days. (Courtesy bbc.com)

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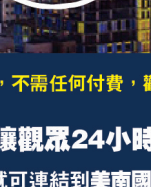
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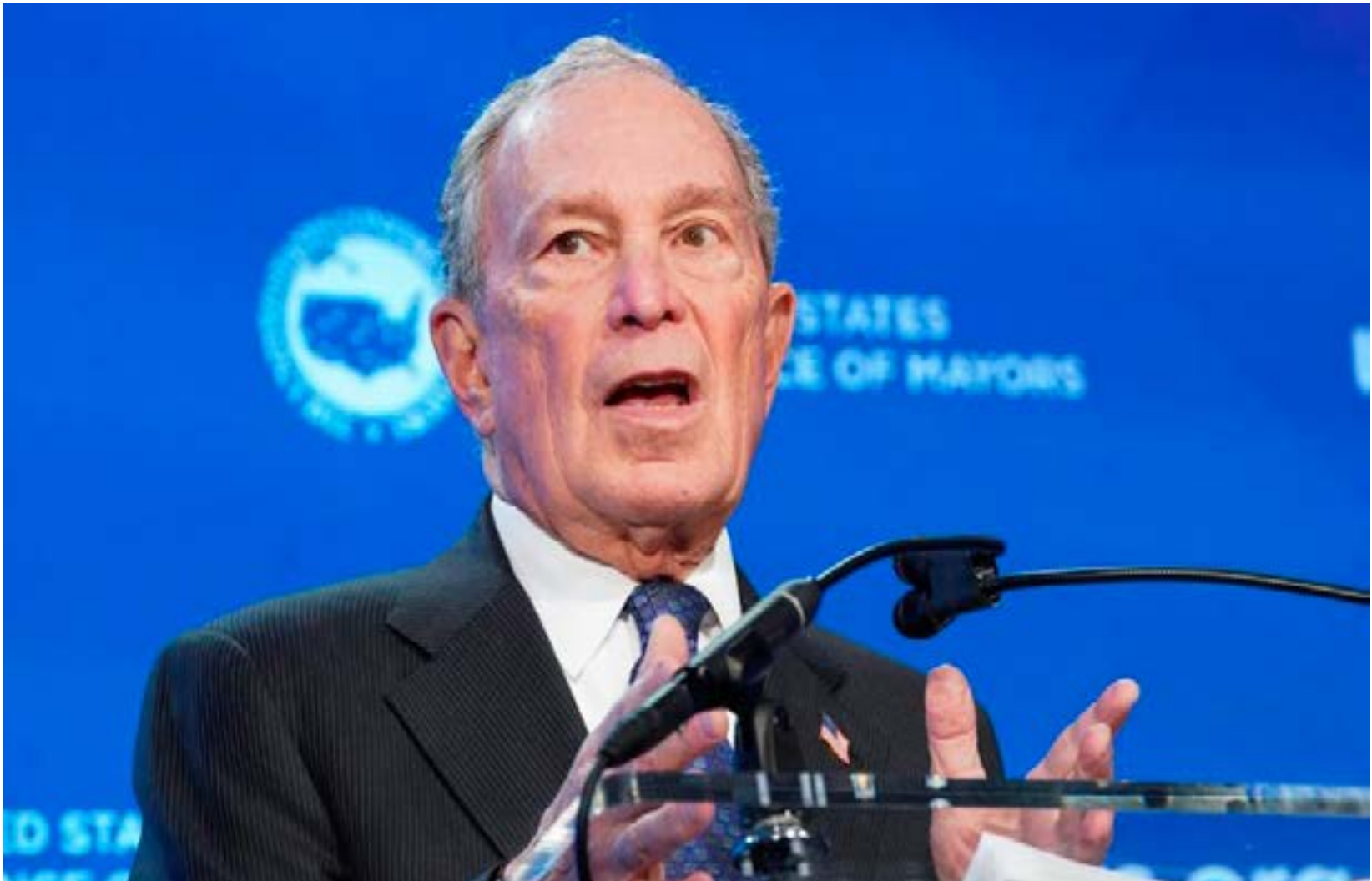
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Editor's Choice



Feb 1, 2020; Scottsdale, Arizona, USA; Bryson DeChambeau tees off on the tenth during the third round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament at TPC Scottsdale. Mandatory Credit: Joe Camporeale-USA TO-DAY Sports



A man wears a masks in Chinatown following the outbreak of a new coronavirus, in Chicago



FILE PHOTO: Passengers arrive at LAX from Shanghai, China, after a positive case of the coronavirus was announced in the Orange County suburb of Los Angeles, California, U.S., January 26, 2020. REUTERS/Ringo Chiu/File Photo



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden attends a campaign event in North Liberty, Iowa, U.S., February 1, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Former Secretary of State John Kerry speaks during a campaign event in support of Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden in North Libery, Iowa, U.S., February 1, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



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A model poses for a portrait backstage as she wears a creation by Claudina Mata during the International Flamenco Fashion Show SIMOF in the Andalusian capital of Seville, Spain February 1, 2020. REUTERS/Marcelo del Pozo TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A supporter of Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) wearing a Statue of Liberty mask poses for a selfie before a campaign event in Cedar Rapids

EXCLUSIVE
**Countries Struggle to Control
The Spread Of The Epidemic**

**As The Coronavirus Explodes,
China Becomes More Isolated**



More Than 7,700 Cases of Coronavirus Have Been Recorded Worldwide.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Australians flown home from Wuhan, China, will be quarantined on an island for two weeks. Americans, also evacuated from Wuhan, will be “temporarily housed” on an air base in California. And in South Korea, the police have been empowered to detain people who refuse to be quarantined.

For countries outside China, the time to prevent an epidemic is now, when cases are few and can be isolated. They are trying to seize the moment to protect themselves against the coronavirus outbreak, which has reached every province in China, sickening more than 7,700 people and killing 170.

More than a dozen nations with a handful of cases — including the United States — are isolating patients and monitoring their contacts, as well as screening travelers from China and urging people to postpone trips there.

But whether this virus can be contained depends on factors still unknown, like just how contagious it is and when in the course of the infection the virus starts to spread.



World Health Organization officials, from left, Tarik Jasarevic, a spokesman; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general; Michael Ryan, head of health emergencies program; and Maria Van Kerkhove, head of emerging diseases and zoonosis, during a briefing in Geneva on Wednesday. Credit...Fabrice Coffrini/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

China, with nearly 1.4 billion people, is the most populous nation on Earth, and it has taken extreme measures to try to stop the disease, first reported in December in Wuhan, a city of 11 million. The government has stopped travel in and out of that city and surrounding ones, effectively locking down tens of millions of people.

“The fact that to date we have only seen 68 cases outside China and no deaths is due in no small part to the extraordinary steps the government has taken to prevent the export of cases,” Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization, said at a news briefing on Wednesday.

But the disease has spread far and wide inside China and, with extensive worldwide travel by its citizens, especially during the celebration of the Lunar New Year, countries everywhere are bracing for the arrival of more new cases.

Person-to-person transmission is occurring, and cases have turned up in several countries with people who have not visited China. Mentioning those cases, Dr. Tedros said the potential for further global spread was one of the reasons he had called on the W.H.O.’s emergency committee to meet again on Thursday to decide whether to declare the epidemic a public health emergency of international concern. The committee met twice last week but was split about whether to declare an emergency, saying it did not have enough information to decide.



A patient being helped off an ambulance in Wuhan, China. (Photo/Agence France-Presse Getty Images)

The timeline of 2019-nCoV “coronavirus”

- 31 December 2019 - China alerts the World Health Organization (WHO) about a spate of pneumonia-like cases in Wuhan
- 1 January 2020 - The seafood/animal market believed to be at the centre of the outbreak is closed
- 9 January - The WHO says the infection is caused by a new type of coronavirus
- 10 January - China shares the genetic code of the new virus
- 11 January - Scientists start working on a vaccine - and the first death confirmed
- 13 January - Virus spreads abroad for the first time, with a case in Thailand

“I think things are going to get worse before they get better,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States, said in a podcast posted on Tuesday by the medical journal JAMA.



A chartered plane carrying Americans from Wuhan arrived at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif., on Wednesday. Credit...Matt Hartman/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

If China can somehow contain its outbreak, and if other countries with cases can prevent sustained transmission, Dr. Fauci said that it might be possible to end the outbreak, just as the coronavirus that caused the SARS epidemic in 2003 was

stamped out.

“But it’s going to be a real kind of tight-rope walk, because if it gets so expansive then it’s not going to just disappear the way SARS did,” he said.

“I think the next four to five weeks are going to be critical. It’s either going to start peaking and go into a downturn, or it’s going to explode into a global outbreak.”

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in an interview that he thought it would become clear in a few days whether the outbreak could be contained.

“If we’re seeing widespread transmission, thousands or tens of thousands of infections in the community, I don’t see how this gets controlled,” Dr. Frieden said. “On the other hand, if we see a SARS-like situation, where with incredible effort they were able to isolate people, tamp down the spread, then we’re in a containment situation.”

A particular concern is the possibility that the virus could wreak havoc in Africa, where possible cases are being investigated.

“We are very concerned about Africa because some of the least prepared countries for outbreaks are in Africa,” Dr. Frieden said, adding, “We know the systems there to find it and stop it are weaker there than elsewhere.”

(Continued on page C5)

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(Continued from page C4)

As The Coronavirus Explodes, China Becomes More Isolated



If efforts to contain an outbreak fail, public health authorities will focus on “mitigation”—dealing with the disease and trying to minimize the harm it does to people and communities.

“It’s a worrisome situation in China,” Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said in an interview on Wednesday. “It seems like more of a mitigation strategy than a control strategy that China has moved to.”

The United States still has a chance to avoid China’s fate, she said.

But the five patients have had hundreds of contacts. Some are being tested for the virus, and the results may help researchers understand how the disease is transmitted. The C.D.C. is also monitoring more than 100 “patients under investigation” — some with cough or fever who have been to Wuhan, or have had contact with a patient.



But if the case count were to increase exponentially, Dr. Messonnier said, it would be hard to continue the concerted containment efforts. The C.D.C. is already gearing up should the approach need to evolve to mitigation strategies like closing schools, preventing public gatherings and helping hospitals prepare for a surge of cases.

One troubling question is whether infected people can start spreading the virus before they themselves get sick. Chinese health officials have said they believe such transmission has taken place. If it happened often, it could make stopping an outbreak much harder.

The reason is that the first step in halting outbreaks has traditionally been to identify people who are ill and then stop them from infecting others, usually by isolating them. But that approach will not work as well if people without any symptoms are already transmitting the disease.

Dr. Fauci said that epidemics are fueled by people with symptoms — like sneezing and coughing, which help spray the virus around — and not by those without symptoms, even if some of them can spread the virus. Dr. Frieden said if asymptomatic people do transmit some virus, sick patients are likely to spread a lot more.

People with colds or flu can spread virus-

es for a day or two before they become ill, but how big a role that plays in outbreaks is not known, researchers say.

In any case, flu spreads worldwide every year, infecting tens of millions of people. And the spread of the new coronavirus is starting to resemble that of seasonal flu, said Dr. Michael T. Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.



Among patients with the Wuhan coronavirus, about 20 percent have become seriously ill, and the rest have a mild illness, the W.H.O. said at a news briefing on Wednesday. So far, the death rate appears to be about 2 percent, but that is not certain yet. Those who die tend to be older people with underlying ailments. The median age of the first 425 patients in China was 59, and a little more than half were male, according to a report published in The New England Journal of Medicine on Wednesday.

Diseases caused by related coronaviruses are deadlier: SARS killed 10 percent, and MERS about 35 percent. Seasonal flu, with a much lower overall death rate of 0.1 percent, kills more than half a million people worldwide every year. At least 8,200 people in the United States have died during this flu season, according to estimates from the C.D.C. (Courtesy <https://www.nytimes.com/>)

Related

A deadly new virus. Thousands of people infected. No cure. No vaccine. Scientists race to develop a vaccine for the Coronavirus

In the past five years alone, the world has faced outbreaks of Ebola, Zika, another coronavirus called Mers (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), and now the vi-

rus simply known as “2019-nCoV”.

It’s already infected thousands of people and killed more than 100.

But unlike in many previous outbreaks, where vaccines to protect people have taken years to develop, research for a vaccine to help stem this outbreak got under way within hours of the virus being identified.

Chinese officials released its genetic code very quickly. That information helps scientists determine where the virus probably came from, how it might mutate as the outbreak develops, and how to protect people against it.

With technological advances and greater commitment from governments around the world to fund research on emerging diseases, research facilities were able to spring into action fast.



Scientists hope to have a vaccine ready to enter human trial by early summer. Unprecedented speed

At Inovio’s lab in San Diego, scientists are using a relatively new type of DNA technology to develop a potential vaccine. “INO-4800” - as it’s currently called - with plans for it to enter human trials by the early summer.

Inovio says if the initial human trials are a success, larger trials would follow, ideally in an outbreak setting in China “by the end of the year”.

The work in these labs is being funded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (Cepi), which is made up of and funded by governments and philanthropic organizations from around the world.

It was created in the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to provide

funding to accelerate the development of vaccines for new diseases.

The WHO is co-ordinating this global quest for a new vaccine. It says it is following the progress of a number of research facilities, including the three supported by Cepi.



Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar led a news conference about the federal government’s response to the outbreak of coronavirus. The conference included CDC’s Robert Redfield, left, Nancy Messonnier and Anthony Fauci from the NIH.

Although efforts to come up with a vaccine for this new coronavirus have been accelerated, research is still at an early stage at all the facilities in the race to find a new vaccine. Clinical trials take time and are best carried out within an outbreak setting.

There are no guarantees any of the designs so far will be safe and effective enough to be used in the outbreak in China.

Ana Maria Henao-Restrepo from the WHO’s Health Emergencies program said:

“Understanding the disease, its reservoirs, its transmission, its clinical severity and developing effective counter measures is critical for the control of the outbreak.”

The WHO is due to decide which vaccine will be tested on humans first in the coming days. (Courtesy [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/))

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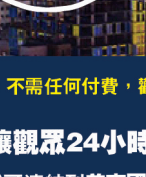
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