The novel coronavirus broke out in Wuhan, China this December. The virus is highly contagious, and causes pneumonia-like symptoms that have resulted in a roughly 2% death rate among those who have contracted the virus. So far, there is no cure. The virus is more likely to effect those with preexisting conditions; the median patient age is between 49 and 56. Roughly three times as many people as have died have been completely recovered.

Countries throughout the world have reported cases of the coronavirus. However, none compare to the severity of the outbreak in China. The U.S. has no coronavirus related travel restrictions for any area other than mainland China.

States and countries throughout the world have imposed travel restrictions in response to the coronavirus. The United States has placed mainland China at a Level 4, indicating U.S. citizens should not travel to China due to the coronavirus.

U.S. citizens can travel from mainland China to the United States as long as they remain quarantined for 14 days upon arrival. However, foreign citizens will not be allowed to travel to the US from mainland China.

These restrictions do not apply to Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan.

Were you recently in China or in contact with someone in China? Do you feel sick with a fever, cough, or have difficulty breathing?

Call ahead and explain your symptoms and recent travel before going to the doctor’s office or emergency room.

Avoid contact with sick people.
Avoid animals (alive or dead).
Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol based hand sanitizer that uses 60% alcohol.
CDC does not recommend the use of face masks among the general public.
As with many sicknesses, strengthening your immune system with good sleep and stress control is the best defense.

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U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance should contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) unit at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.