

# United States Senate

January 23, 2020

Dr. Robert Redfield, M.D.  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Redfield,

I am writing to express concerns with the reported novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in Wuhan, China and the global public health considerations, particularly in light of the reported case in the United States.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), this is a “novel (new)” coronavirus with China reporting approximately 617 human infections and 17 fatalities. The data suggests that “person-to-person spread” is occurring, and through that, impacted countries include: the United States, China, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore. The rapid spread of a respiratory pathogen is incredibly concerning due to the global nature of our economy and international travel patterns. To combat these types of situations, in the most recent funding legislation, Congress appropriated \$173 million to the CDC for global health security in fiscal year 2020, a \$75 million increase from fiscal year 2019 levels.

Through my role as Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Subcommittee on East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, I look forward to working with the CDC to ensure that Congress is prepared to serve as a collaborative partner and assist with the reported rapidly evolving situation.

To that end, below is a list of initial questions for which I request a response:

- What steps is the CDC taking to contain the outbreak?
- Are there barriers to global public health coordination that need to be addressed?
- Has China shared samples of 2019-nCoV with global health officials?
- Is there more that can be done to inform the public about symptoms and risk-prevention strategies?
- How is the CDC working with other domestic and international agencies to develop screening practices and treatments?
- How did the CDC’s proactive public health response evolve from previous efforts to combat Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) as well as Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV)?

I am grateful for the CDC's expertise in this space, and request ongoing communication on the 2019-nCoV outbreak.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cory Gardner  
United States Senator