

United States Senate

January 23, 2010

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I write to express concern regarding the reported novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in Wuhan, China and its implications for global public health, particularly in light of a case reported in the United States.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), this is a novel coronavirus with China reporting approximately 617 human infections and 17 fatalities. The data suggests that “person-to-person spread” is occurring, resulting in the disease spreading to the United States, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea. The rapid spread of a respiratory pathogen is a serious concern given our global economy and citizenry, as well as our role as both a travel destination and transit hub for the world.

In my role as Chairman of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, I look forward to working with the Department of State to ensure that Congress is a collaborative partner to assist with the situation as it rapidly unfolds.

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

- What steps has the Department taken to inform U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the risks of travel to and residence in affected regions?
- What steps is the Department taking to protect U.S. government employees assigned to the embassy and consulates under chief of mission authority in affected countries?
- How has the Department of State leveraged its cooperation with China and other countries through the Global Health Security Agenda to ensure affected countries have a robust response to contain the outbreak, drawing on resources across the whole of government?
- Does China have the capacity to securely and responsibly store samples of 2019-nCoV, consistent with its obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention?

- How is the Department working with regional partners, including Taiwan, to contain the spread of this outbreak?

Thank you for the work that you and your team do every day to keep the American people safe and to advance our national interests. You have my gratitude for the Department's active response. I request that you keep me updated on your response to 2019-nCoV outbreak as it develops.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator