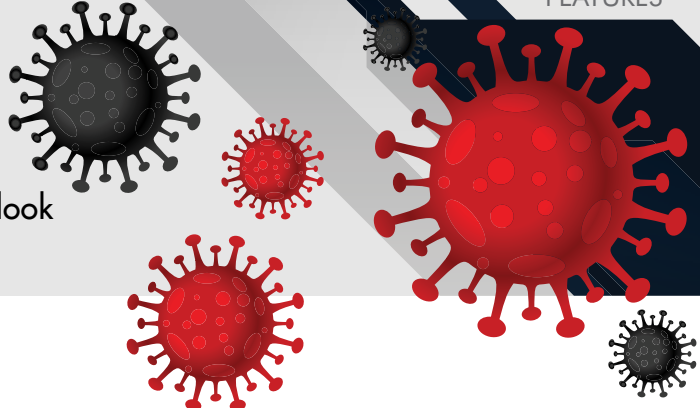# TIMELINE OF **COVID-19** PANDEMIC

From Wuhan to the World

BY CRYSTAL CHONG

The novel coronavirus which originated in Wuhan, China is now known to have infected hundreds of thousands of people around the world, compelling many countries to take lockdown measures in efforts to prevent the spread of the deadly disease. Here's a look at some key events from the past three months.

CHINA

Dec 31, 2019

Chinese health officials informed the World Health Organisation (WHO) China Country Office of a pneumonia with an unknown cause detected in the city of Wuhan, Hubei province. Some patients were identified as operating dealers or vendors in the Huanan Seafood Market.

Jan 1, 2020

The Huanan Seafood Market closed and Wuhan authorities banned the trade of live animals at all wet markets soon after the first cases were announced.

SYMPTOMS

HEADACHE	FATIGUE
DRY COUGH	SORE THROAT
FEVER	RUNNY NOSE

Jan 7, 2020

Chinese authorities identified the virus as a type of coronavirus, then called 2019-nCoV.

Jan 10, 2020

WHO issued a tool for countries to check their ability to detect and respond to a novel coronavirus that developed with reference to other coronaviruses, such as SARS and MERS.

Jan 11, 2020

China announced its first death linked to the coronavirus - a 61-year-old man who had purchased goods from the seafood market.

Jan 13, 2020

The first case of the novel coronavirus outside of China was confirmed in Thailand – a 61-year-old female tourist who had spent time in Wuhan.

THAILAND

Jan 20, 2020

The first US case was reported - a 35-year-old man in Washington who was evacuated from Wuhan.

Jan 23, 2020

Chinese authorities placed the 11 million residents of Wuhan under lockdown, with the rest of Hubei province to follow days later.

Jan 30, 2020

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

India and the Philippines confirmed their first cases of the virus, with one infected patient in each country.
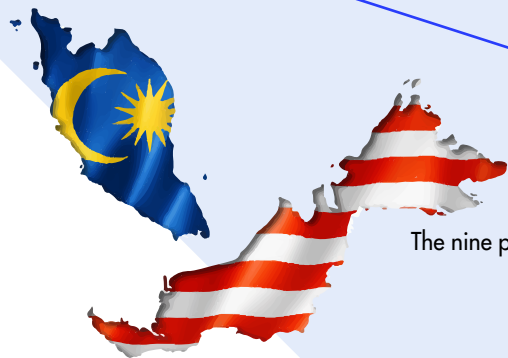
Jan 31, 2020

President Trump banned foreign nationals from entering the US if they were in China within the two weeks before.

Feb 2, 2020

The first death outside of China was recorded in the Philippines.

Feb 4, 2020

For the first time, a Malaysian tested positive for the virus - a 41-year-old man who was in Singapore for a conference which was also attended by several international delegations, including from China.

The nine prior cases reported in Malaysia all involved Chinese nationals.

Feb 6, 2020

Malaysia confirmed its first locally-transmitted case of the novel coronavirus, with the patient being the sister of the Malaysian man who attended a conference in Singapore.

CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19

Feb 9, 2020

The death toll in China surpassed that of the SARS epidemic, with 811 deaths recorded and 37,198 infections. In comparison, SARS killed 774 people and infected 8,098 between November 2002 and July 2003.

Feb 11, 2020

WHO announced the novel coronavirus disease would be named COVID-19.

CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19

Feb 12, 2020

Cases started to spike in South Korea as China's number of new cases began to stabilise.

There were also 175 people infected on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship, docked at Yokohama, Japan.

Feb 14, 2020

Egypt became the first country in Africa to report a case and France reported Europe's first death from the virus.

EGYPT

IRAN

Feb 19, 2020

The Iran outbreak began, reporting two deaths from the virus just hours after confirming its first cases.

Feb 21, 2020

The Italy outbreak began with over 41,000 infections and more than 3,400 deaths. It became the most-affected nation apart from China.

Feb 24, 2020

Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Afghanistan and Oman reported their first cases of the coronavirus.

Feb 26, 2020

Norway, Romania, Greece, Georgia, Pakistan, North Macedonia and Brazil detected their first cases of the coronavirus.

ITALY

PREVENTION

USE MASK

AVOID CROWDED PLACES

WASH HANDS

Feb 27, 2020

Estonia, Denmark, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands reported their first coronavirus cases. Worldwide, the number of infections passed 82,000, with more than 2,800 deaths.

Feb 29, 2020

US reported its first death on American soil - a man in his 50's who had chronic underlying health issues.

LOCK DOWN

March 8, 2020

For the first time, 100 countries reported COVID-19 cases, just as the world reached 100,000 cases the day before.

March 10, 2020

Italy placed all 60 million of its residents on lockdown. It restricted virtually all aspects of life, including retail, leisure, worship, imprisonment and travel. All stores, except for grocery stores and pharmacies, closed.

March 11, 2020

WHO characterised COVID-19 as pandemic.

President Trump also banned all entries from 26 European countries.

March 13, 2020

Europe became the epicentre of the pandemic, with more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from China.

Five thousand people had lost their lives to COVID-19.

STAY HOME

March 14, 2020

Spain became the second European country to impose a nationwide quarantine, with the government ordering its 47 million residents to stay in their homes for at least 15 days. Bars, restaurants and hotels closed across the nation.

CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19

March 16, 2020

The Malaysian government announced that all business operations would be closed except essentials like markets, utilities, broadcasting, banking and healthcare.

Luzon, which is home to half of the Philippines' population of over 100 million, started its lockdown which is expected to end on April 13.

In Germany, a shutdown of shops, churches, sports facilities, bars and clubs in 16 states was announced. The Czech Republic also closed most shops and restaurants and began to ban foreign travel.

Kenya closed schools and blocked non-residents from entering the country, becoming the first African nation to impose such measures.

March 17, 2020

France started a 15-day nationwide lockdown, with most shops, restaurants and entertainment facilities shut to encourage people to stay at home.

Malaysia recorded its first two deaths from COVID-19 - a 60-year-old pastor in Sarawak and a 34-year-old Malaysian who attended the tabligh gathering at Seri Petaling Jamek Mosque.

March 18, 2020

Malaysia began the 14-day Movement Control Order (MCO), banning all forms of public gatherings for social, religious, sporting or cultural purposes. Belgium also declared a lockdown for the entire country until April 5.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison declared for the first time ever a "human biosecurity emergency" in the country, telling Australians: "Do not travel abroad, do not go overseas."

For the first time since the start of the epidemic, no new domestic cases were reported in China.

March 20-21, 2020

Italy reported the two highest single-day death tolls for any country: 627 on March 20 and 793 on March 21. Coronavirus-related deaths surged past 10,000 globally.

March 23, 2020

New York City confirmed nearly 21,000 cases, making it the biggest epicentre of the outbreak in the US.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that he would place Britain under virtual lockdown with immediate effect, closing all non-essential shops, banning meetings of more than two people and requiring people to stay in their homes, except to buy food or medicine.

Australia also began living under new restrictions as many non-essential services, pubs, clubs, cinemas, gyms and houses of worship closed.

March 24, 2020

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a lockdown of 21 days for the country's 1.3 billion residents, marking the largest lockdown declared since the beginning of the outbreak.

On the other hand, the Chinese government announced it will lift the lockdown on Wuhan on 8 April.

March 25, 2020

Malaysia announced it would extend the MCO to April 14.

March 26 2020

Mainland China reported a second consecutive day of no new local COVID-19 infections as the epicentre of the epidemic, Hubei province, opened its borders.

This came as the total confirmed cases in the US reached 82,404, the highest in the world, surpassing both China (81,782) and Italy (80,589).

New Zealand started a four-week lockdown as the number of cases surged to 262, with only essential services, including banks, supermarkets and pharmacies remaining open.

March 27, 2020

Nearly 1 in 2 Americans put on some form of lockdown, with 22 states, including California and New York, issuing stay-at-home orders.

March 28, 2020

Cases of COVID-19 worldwide surpassed 600,000.

Spain and Italy hit new records for the number of deaths in one day - Spain recorded 832 dead and Italy recorded 889.

March 30, 2020

As of the time of writing, there are 721,412 infections, 151,004 recoveries and 33,956 deaths globally. The countries with the highest number of confirmed cases are US (141,854), Italy (97,689) and China (81,439), with Malaysia's confirmed infections at 2,470 and death toll at 35.

Sources: WHO, Business Insider, The Guardian, BBC, New Straits Times, The Star, Bernama, Al Jazeera, The Base Lab