

## Quick Update on (COVID-19) coronavirus

There continues to be good and bad news surrounding COVID-19. The bad news concerns how contagious it is and how difficult it can be to recover from it. There are currently over 71,449 cases worldwide. Most of these, 70,553, are in China.

There are 881 cases outside of China. More than half of these, 454, are on the cruise ship in Japan where 12% of those on board are infected. The high numbers in China and from the cruise ship indicate how contagious the virus is.

There have been 15 cases in the US. So far only 3 are listed as having recovered. The US will get 14 more cases of Americans who are being transported back home from the cruise ship.

The good news is there have been only 5 deaths outside of China from the virus. Also, aside from the increase in cases from the cruise ship, the number of new cases in China and outside China has continued to increase at a progressively slower rate. We are not seeing the accelerating growth in infections outside of China that some have been predicting.

In spite of some encouraging trends in containing the virus in developed countries, potential problems still exist. The highly infectious nature of the disease as well as the difficulty in recovering from it would be catastrophic if the virus took hold in some of the poorer countries of the world.



