



'This is a time for facts, not fear,' says WHO chief as COVID-19 virus spreads

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057481>

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday cautioned against panic over COVID-19 but also urged governments to step up their efforts to prepare for the virus, saying "it's impossible to predict which direction this epidemic will take."

WHO was also encouraged that "the global research community has come together to identify and accelerate the most urgent research needs for diagnostics, treatments and vaccines", and that a team of international experts is now on the ground in China, working closely with Chinese counterparts to understand the outbreak, and to inform the next steps in the global response.

The virus emerged in central China in late December and the latest figures show it has infected more than 63,000 people and has killed some 1,300 patients, mostly in China. The WHO has classified COVID-19 a global health threat.

"Cases have been reported in the USA, UK, Philippines, Singapore, Egypt and counting".

source: Daily Graphic 17/02/2020 & 18/02/2020

