

## Coronavirus in Asia Pacific

Just like the SARS epidemic of 2003, the world is again on high alert as an infectious disease continues to spread.

The latest virus started in Wuhan, China, which is now in lockdown, although it is thought that many, many residents managed to leave the city before the government travel restrictions were imposed.

The China numbers make for grim reading: more than 130 have died and there are more than 6,000 confirmed cases.

The virus is spreading within Asia Pacific, indeed globally, with 16 other countries having confirmed cases.

Here in Singapore, those lucky enough to have been able to buy a mask (now out-of-stock) are wearing them in public, despite doubts about their effectiveness against airborne diseases.

Countries are organising flights to evacuate their nationals from Wuhan/China and some airlines, including British Airways, have ceased to fly to/from China.

With an incubation of up to 14 days, the numbers affected are likely to increase in the short term.

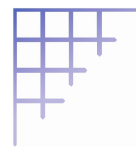
Coronavirus will provide challenges for the insurance market, especially in relation to travel claims, where there is an infinite number of policy wordings. Exclusions

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relating to infectious diseases/pandemics may well negate property/BI claims. Yet again, Denial of Access clauses will be examined and discussed. The subject of Wide Area Damage will be much talked about.

With wholly-owned offices in Singapore and Colombo, and Specialist Associates in Jakarta, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing, Concordia Consultancy stands ready to support the insurance market during this difficult time.

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