

## Jamie Buchanan

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**From:** Congressman Jim Banks <IN03JB.Outreach@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2020 4:35 PM  
**To:** Jamie Buchanan  
**Subject:** An update on COVID-19

News from Congressman Banks

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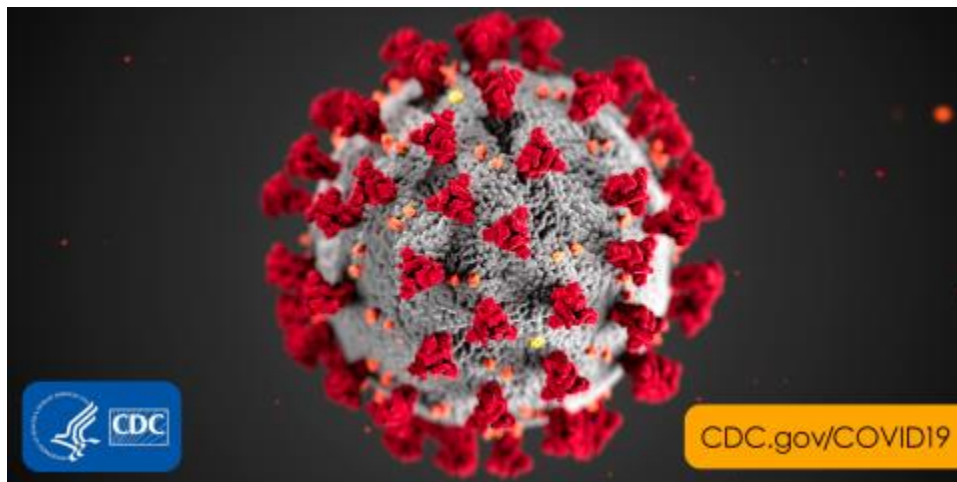
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Hello,

As your representative in Washington, I wanted to relay to you **the latest details on [COVID-19](#)** -- also known as coronavirus -- and what can be done to **minimize risk to exposure**.



## What You Should Know

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a precautionary [warning](#) on Tuesday that the coronavirus could begin spreading at a community level in the United States, adding that disruptions to daily life could be "severe" as we seek to contain it.

There are now more than 80,000 [documented cases](#) of coronavirus around the world and more than 2,800 deaths.

The United States now has over 60 cases -- a very low number for a nation of over 300 million but a number that **could increase exponentially**.

**The virus has [peaked](#) in its breakout location**, Wuhan, China, and **the fatality rate is relatively low** -- in Wuhan the fatality rate is just over 3%; outside Wuhan the fatality rate is 0.7%.

President Trump [announced](#) Wednesday that Vice President Mike Pence will be responsible for coordinating the federal government's virus response efforts.

While governor of Indiana, **Pence handled the MERS outbreak**, a strain of coronavirus that was first [reported](#) inside the U.S. in Munster, Indiana.

Now Congress and the president are working together to appropriate the funds needed to combat the disease.

## Take Caution

**Patients with mild disease will [recover](#) in two weeks**. For those with severe disease, about 20%, recovery is three to six weeks.

The virus is [spread through coughs and sneezes](#). When a patient coughs into their hand and then touches a surface they can place the virus on that surface. If a person comes along and touches that surface and then their mouth or nose, or eyes, they can contract the virus.

In preparation, the CDC has developed a test for diagnosing the illness and [stockpiled](#) fully-stocked, strategic medical supplies.

While the CDC is duly preparing for pandemic, **you too have a role**.

## Make A Difference

Here's what you can do:

**Wash your hands!** One of the simplest prevention measures one can take is proper hand-washing.

The CDC recommends washing hands with soap and water before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, and before and after caring for a sick friend or a family member.

**Stay home when you are sick!** Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

**"Should I wear a facemask?"** The CDC recommends that only patients with the coronavirus wear a [face mask](#) to protect others around them, or, if the patient cannot wear a face mask, others should if they are in the same room together.

**Health officials are not recommending that healthy people buy masks at this time.**

Thanks for letting me fill you in.

For more updates on the coronavirus and what's happening in Congress, subscribe to my [newsletter](#).



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