

# Biosecurity and the Global COVID-19 Outbreak

## What's Happening?

On December 31, 2019, Chinese authorities informed the World Health Organization of a cluster of pneumonia cases in the city of Wuhan. One week later, China announced that it had isolated a new type of coronavirus responsible for the outbreak. Even as flights to and from China are cancelled and quarantines are being implemented, cases of COVID-19 continue to arise worldwide, with new hot spots identified in Iran, Italy, and South Korea. Meanwhile, financial markets are reeling and health officials fear that a pandemic is near.

## Want to Dig Deeper?

The editors of *International Security* have selected the following articles as excellent starting points to help achieve a greater understanding of the crisis at hand. While some of the articles below explore man-made biothreats (e.g., bioterrorism), the editors believe that the dynamics discussed are equally illuminating for how security professionals deal with naturally occurring biological threats, such as infectious disease.

### FOR A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL THREATS (NATURALLY OCCURRING & MAN-MADE):

- **“Biosecurity Reconsidered: Calibrating Biological Threats and Responses”**

Gregory D. Koblentz (Spring 2010)

### FOR HISTORICAL LESSONS ON HOW PANDEMICS CAN AFFECT ONGOING CONFLICT PROCESSES:

- **“HIV/AIDS and the Changing Landscape of War in Africa”**

Stefan Elbe (Fall 2002)

### FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF HOW GLOBALIZATION HAS IMPACTED VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND BIODEFENSE:

- **“A Double-Edged Sword: Globalization and Biosecurity”**

Kendall Hoyt and Stephen G. Brooks (Winter 2003/04)

### FOR HOW THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY APPROACHES NONTRADITIONAL BIOSECURITY THREATS:

- **“Expert Knowledge in Intelligence Assessments: Bird Flu and Bioterrorism”**

Kathleen M. Vogel (Winter 2013/14)