



**Official Statement of  
The Wright Group**  
January 30, 2020

## **Novel Coronavirus Outbreak**

The recent outbreak of Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei, China has so far affected 7,700 patients in China with 132 deaths. This number will increase until contained. It struck just before the Chinese New Year holiday season when much of China's citizens travel long distances to spend time with family.

Travel restrictions, border closings and flight cancellations have been the initial impacts, which will hopefully help to contain the crisis. As in the cases of H5N1 avian flu in 1997 and 2006, and SARS in 2002-3, we anticipate some effects on vitamin supply and pricing, though it is difficult to know for sure at this early stage. The disease itself has already exceeded the patients affected by SARS, but does not seem to be quite as lethal.

The Chinese government has reacted quickly and much more effectively than in past epidemics. They have extended the back-to-work date to February 10 following the CNY holiday in provinces not now affected, though operations in Hubei will be delayed for a longer period.

It is too soon to know which specific nutrients will be impacted. We are working with our supply chain to get timely information, though no companies are willing to commit to supply or price guarantees until workers can return and operations can be stabilized. We are also anticipating demand increases on any nutrients known to strengthen immunity which could put pressure on supplies.

We will work to keep our valuable clients informed as the situation evolves.

*the***WrightGroup**<sup>™</sup>