COVID-19 in China
As of February 21, 2020
75,569 reported cases
75,467 (99%) of cases are in Chinese mainland
2239 deaths

COVID-19 in the US
As of February 24, 2020
14 cases diagnosed through US health care system
39 cases among repatriated US citizens
0 deaths
0 critically ill case-patients
No evidence of community-wide COVID-19 transmission in the US

Influenza in the US
As of February 15, 2020, CDC estimates
At least 29 million ill patients
At least 13 million physician visits
At least 280,000 hospitalizations
At least 16,000 deaths
105 pediatric influenza-associated deaths reported to the CDC by state health departments

In contrast, the 2019-2020 influenza season in the US has been moderately severe to date, with large numbers of ill persons, and substantial numbers of hospitalizations and deaths attributable to influenza. This season has been especially severe for children, with very high pediatric hospitalization rates. From a public health perspective, people should focus their attention on influenza and take preventive measures.

Get the flu vaccine
Avoid sick persons, especially those who are coughing
Wash hands frequently

In general, wearing masks in public does not prevent people from getting the disease. They may only be useful if you live with someone who is infected and the mask use is started immediately after the person has become infected.


Image source: C. Goldsmith and D. Rollin/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Please cite as: JAMA. Published online February 26, 2020. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.2633