

# Sri Lanka confirms first case of new virus, a Chinese tourist

January 27 2020, by Bharatha Mallawarachi

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Sri Lankan health authorities said Monday that the country has its first confirmed case of a person infected with the new virus from China.

The patient is a Chinese woman in her 40s who arrived in Sri Lanka last week as a tourist from China's Hubei province, said Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, chief epidemiologist of the country's [health ministry](#).

The woman was suffering from a fever when she was admitted Saturday to the island nation's Infectious Disease Hospital, a state-run facility that treats people suffering from potentially deadly infectious diseases.

Sri Lanka became a major travel destination for Chinese tourists in recent years. Many Chinese nationals also work on Chinese-funded [infrastructure projects](#)—including a sea port, port city and highways.

Thousands of people have been sickened in China by the new virus and scores of people have died.

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