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German expert for coronavirus brings virus inhibitors to China: CMG

Xinhua

🕒 17:05 UTC+8, 2020-01-27

**New Coronavirus Outbreak** (/New-coronavirus-outbreak/)

Rolf Hilgenfeld, a German coronavirus research expert and professor at the Lubeck University, brought two inhibitors developed for SARS-CoV to China to test their effects on the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), according to China Media Group.

Hilgenfeld and his team have been devoted to the research of SARS-CoV inhibitors for many years. The inhibitor uses protease acting on the virus to prevent the protein from cracking, thus preventing the formation of the mature virus.

At present, the preparation developed by the team is effective in mice infected with SARS-CoV and stable in human cell culture experiments.

Scientists have found that the 2019-nCoV is 80 percent similar to the SARS-CoV, and the similarity between the protease of these two viruses is as high as 96 percent. Hilgenfeld hopes that the inhibitors can help the research on 2019-nCoV drugs.

In an interview with CMG, he said that the experiments on 2019-nCoV will be carried out on mice, and toxicological experiments will be carried out to eliminate other side effects that may be caused by the drugs. Finally, mass production will be possible only through clinical trials.

The coronavirus is self-limiting. After a period of time, when enough people produce antibodies, the continuous spread of the virus can be restricted, thus ending the spread of the epidemic, he said.

Source: Xinhua Editor: Han Jing

**New Coronavirus Outbreak** (/New-coronavirus-outbreak/)**Special Reports**



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Wuhan to provide over 10,000 hospital beds for viral pneumonia patients: official

Xinhua

🕒 16:36 UTC+8, 2020-01-28



New Coronavirus Outbreak (/New-coronavirus-outbreak/)

Wuhan, at the center of a viral pneumonia outbreak, will soon have 10,000 hospital beds reserved for infected patients as Chinese authorities take all means necessary to boost the city's overwhelmed health system.

Jiao Yahui, an official with the National Health Commission, told a press conference held in Beijing on Tuesday that authorities have been designating over 5,300 beds in various hospitals in Wuhan to be used for novel coronavirus patients.

And about 6,000 more will be added in the next phase.

In addition, Wuhan is building two makeshift hospitals dedicated to fighting the novel coronavirus outbreak, with a combined capacity of 2,000 to 2,300 beds.

The construction of the two facilities is expected to be completed on Feb. 2 and Feb. 5, respectively.

"With over 10,000 beds, we will have the capacity to admit all confirmed and suspected cases as well as other fever patients," said Jiao.

Chinese health authorities announced Tuesday that 4,515 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus had been reported in 30 provincial-level regions by the end of Monday. A total of 106 people have died of the disease.

The epidemic is taking a particularly heavy toll on Hubei Province, of which the capital city is Wuhan.

By the end of Monday, a total of 2,714 confirmed cases had been reported in Hubei and 2,567 patients have been hospitalized, the Hubei Provincial Health Commission said Tuesday. Hospitals across the province received 31,934 fever patients Monday.

Source: Xinhua Editor: Han Jing