

A third person has now tested positive in the UK for coronavirus. The patient did not catch the virus in China, where the vast majority of cases have been found, but elsewhere in Asia, before travelling to the UK, and has been taken to a specialist NHS treatment centre. Meanwhile, China's ambassador to the UK, Liu Xiaoming, has accused the British government of over-reacting to the virus outbreak. Our correspondent Rupert Wingfield-Hayes reports from Hong Kong. This is what happens when fear takes hold. Shops in Hong Kong today were being cleared of rice and toilet paper as rumours swirled of a complete shutdown of the border with mainland China. Out in Hong Kong harbour, a huge cruise ship, the virus possibly loose on board. Several passengers have tested positive and no one is being allowed off. From his balcony, Hinsley Lee can look out at his home town, but can't go there.

TRANSLATION: I am nervous but the only thing we can do is stay in our cabins and be careful. Hong Kong has now at least five cases of people with the coronavirus who haven't been to mainland China and haven't had any apparent contact with people from mainland China. Also, three of them live in the same place, that is this building behind me here, and that may be the first indication of what is called community transmission. That is the virus passing from one person to another here in Hong Kong. Experts here say they are now not optimistic that the virus can be contained and that a full pandemic may be on the way. Not so, according to the Chinese ambassador to London, who today went on the offensive, insisting China has the situation under control. It is our hope that the governments of all countries, including the UK, should understand and support Chinese efforts. Respect the professional advice of WHO, avoid overreaction, avoid creating panic. But at the same time, from Wuhan, pictures the like of which we haven't seen in generations. Stadiums, gymnasiums and conference centres all being turned into fever centres, so desperate is the shortage of beds for the sick.