Covid-19 likely to linger for a long time, say experts

Hopes of quick end to outbreak dashed as number of cases worldwide grows

The number of people diagnosed with Covid-19 is growing around the world and, as the epicentre of the outbreak shifts away from China, experts say the virus is likely to linger for a long time.

"We have to be prepared that it is going to be here for months, if not even a year or two," said Vincent Chu, a professor at the University of Hong Kong and executive director of the World Health Organization's research and cooperation department.

The virus is now spreading in countries around the world, and experts say it is likely to continue to spread for a long time.

"The virus is still spreading in many countries," said Chu. "We have to be prepared that it is going to be here for a long time."