

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 65

Data as reported by national authorities by 10:00 CET 25 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Two new countries/territories/areas from the Western Pacific Region [1], and Eastern Mediterranean Region [1] have reported cases of COVID-19.
- OpenWHO released its introductory video on COVID-19 in Indian sign language yesterday, which is the first sign language resource on the platform. The [video](#) already has nearly 900 enrolments. Courses in additional languages can be found [here](#).
- As the world tackles the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to ensure that essential health services and operations continue to be available to protect the lives of people with malaria, TB and other diseases or health conditions. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- EPI-WIN, WHO's information network for epidemics, makes easy-to-understand advice and information available on a dedicated page on the WHO website. EPI-WIN is also providing employers and workers with timely information through regular calls. More information can be found on the web [here](#) and in *Subject in Focus*.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

414 179 confirmed (40 712)
18 440 deaths (2202)

Western Pacific Region

97 766 confirmed (1186)
3518 deaths (16)

European Region

220 516 confirmed (25 007)
11 986 deaths (1797)

South-East Asia Region

2344 confirmed (354)
72 deaths (7)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

29 631 confirmed (2416)
2008 deaths (131)

Region of the Americas

60 834 confirmed (11 390)
813 deaths (248)

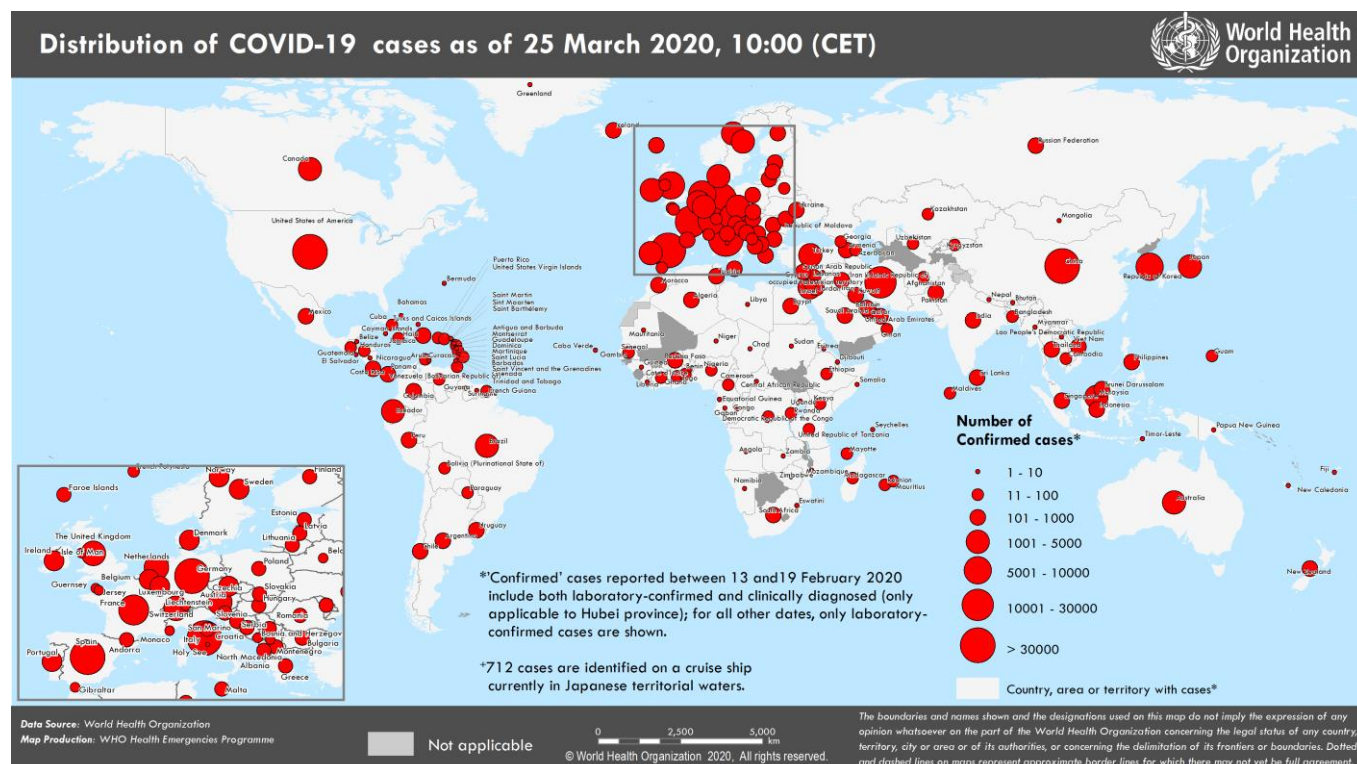
African Region

1664 confirmed (359)
29 deaths (3)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 25 March 2020



SUBJECT IN FOCUS: Infodemics Management – Enabling Safer Workplaces in a time of COVID-19

WHO's Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN) website: www.who.int/epi-win was launched on 24 March and gives people access to timely, accurate, and easy-to-understand advice and information from trusted sources on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, translating scientific information to actionable information. EPI-WIN's two-way communication network addresses key information needs while rebutting misinformation and fighting infodemics, which spread misinformation, create confusion and distrust among people and hamper an effective response. The EPI-WIN website is aimed at a wide range of audiences including

- individuals and communities
- the health sector,
- countries,
- the travel and tourism sector,
- faith-based organizations and faith leaders,
- large event organizers, and
- employers and employees.

Of the world's population of around 8 billion, over 3 billion are in paid employment. National and international trade unions represent the rights and welfare of workers not only in relation to employment but also often in relation to their families and communities and are regarded as trusted sources of information and advice by their members.

EPI-WIN is engaging closely with employers and workers through different entities and organizations that serve as amplifiers with the capacity to reach vast numbers of people with life-saving information and guidance. The International Organization of Employers alone reaches 50 million businesses in 150 countries. Among several other entities and organizations, EPI-WIN has strong links with trade unions through the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s the Bureau of Workers' Activities (ACTRAV), the International Trade Union Confederation and the global sectoral unions, reaching over 210 million workers and their families in 163 countries.

To best respond to the need for timely information of these different audiences, EPI-WIN conducts regular calls with the different sectors. On March 23rd, WHO and the International Occupational Medicine Society Collaboration (IOMSC) conducted a webinar on *"Occupational Health Measures in the Preparedness and Response to COVID19 in the Workplace."* Approximately 225 participants registered for the webinar including IOMSC Occupational Medical Society members as well as other Occupational Medical Society physician leaders from around the world. Participant questions were notably around the themes of: workplace transmission of COVID-19; the use of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) by healthcare and other public-facing workers; the use of rapid tests for COVID-19 to screen workers in workplaces; "Return to Work" guidance; and mental health and psychosocial impacts in workplaces, in particular health facilities.

Two additional webinars are scheduled for Thursday, 26 March the first with the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), representing 8 million workers, and the second a videoconference with the International Organization of Employers (IOE): *"Summit on the collaboration of the private sector with health systems in emergency situations."*

Employers and employees have a crucial role to play in stopping COVID-19 and reducing the impact of the disease on society. A key area of EPI-WIN's work focuses on how to create a COVID-safe workplace and prevent transmission of the disease between employees through the following measures:

Preventing transmission of COVID-19 between employees

- Implement remote work practices (tele-working)
- Social distancing measures in the workplace when on-site presence is required (at least 1 metre)

- Hold fewer in- person meetings
- Restrict the number of visitors entering the workplace
- Limit travel beyond non-essential travel
- Ensure people with symptoms or with family members with symptoms self-quarantine for 14 days
- Check the body temperature of employees daily so that employees with fever don't come to work
- Facilitate access to reliable information for employees to promote understanding of the disease and its symptoms and the personal preventative measures (respiratory etiquette, hand washing, self-isolation if sick)
- Check and follow the advice from the authorities in the community before holding a meeting or event; follow all necessary precautions, protective and self-isolation measures, should a meeting go ahead.

Maintain a safe and healthy work environment

- Develop a business continuity plan
- Develop a contingency and business continuity plan for an outbreak in the communities where your business operates and for when your employees return to work during or after COVID-19 according to national and local health authorities.
- Promote regular and thorough hand washing by employees, contractors and customers, as well as good respiratory hygiene.
- Clean workspaces frequently with disinfectant including high risk areas/space (e.g. door handle, reception counter, elevators, disinfection of working stations of COVID-19 cases)
- Provide alcohol-based gel or washing hands stations
- Establish a reporting system for any cases among employees
- Establish a system to quarantine close contacts of a suspect or confirmed case among the employees
- Ensure good ventilation
- Develop a food delivery system that reduces contacts with food deliverers and avoid employee lines
- Ensure psycho-social support of employees during the pandemic. Incorporate mental health resources into human resources policies. Your employees may be suffering from emotional distress during this period; and may also suffer distress when experiencing changes like returning to work.

SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 25 March 2020*

Reporting Country/ Territory/Area [†]	Total confirmed ‡ cases	Total confirmed new cases	Total deaths	Total new deaths	Transmission classification [§]	Days since last reported case
Western Pacific Region						
China	81848	101	3287	4	Local transmission	0
Republic of Korea	9137	100	126	6	Local transmission	0
Australia	2252	543	8	1	Local transmission	0
Malaysia	1624	106	16	2	Local transmission	0
Japan	1193	65	43	1	Local transmission	0
Singapore	558	51	2	0	Local transmission	0
Philippines	552	90	35	2	Local transmission	0
New Zealand	189	87	0	0	Local transmission	0
Viet Nam	134	11	0	0	Local transmission	0
Brunei Darussalam	104	13	0	0	Local transmission	0
Cambodia	91	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Mongolia	10	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Fiji	4	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	2	0	0	Under investigation	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4
Territories**						
Guam	32	3	1	0	Local transmission	0
French Polynesia	25	7	0	0	Local transmission	0
New Caledonia	10	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
European Region						
Italy	69176	5249	6820	743	Local transmission	0
Spain	39673	6584	2696	514	Local transmission	0
Germany	31554	2342	149	23	Local transmission	0
France	22025	2410	1100	240	Local transmission	0
Switzerland	8789	774	86	20	Local transmission	0
The United Kingdom	8081	1427	422	87	Local transmission	0
Netherlands	5560	811	276	63	Local transmission	0
Austria	5282	796	30	5	Local transmission	0
Belgium	4269	526	122	34	Local transmission	0
Norway	2566	195	10	2	Local transmission	0
Portugal	2362	302	33	10	Local transmission	0
Sweden	2272	256	36	11	Local transmission	0
Israel	2170	932	5	4	Local transmission	0
Turkey	1872	343	44	7	Local transmission	0
Denmark	1591	131	32	8	Local transmission	0
Czechia	1394	158	3	2	Local transmission	0
Ireland	1329	204	7	1	Local transmission	0
Luxembourg	1099	224	8	0	Local transmission	0
Poland	901	152	10	2	Local transmission	0
Finland	792	92	1	0	Local transmission	0
Romania	762	186	11	4	Local transmission	0
Greece	743	48	20	3	Local transmission	0
Russian Federation	658	220	0	0	Local transmission	0
Iceland	648	60	2	0	Local transmission	0
Slovenia	480	38	3	2	Local transmission	0

Croatia	382	76	1	1	Local transmission	0
Estonia	369	17	0	0	Local transmission	0
Serbia	303	54	3	1	Local transmission	0
Armenia	265	30	0	0	Local transmission	0
Hungary	226	39	10	2	Local transmission	0
Bulgaria	220	19	3	0	Local transmission	0
Lithuania	209	30	2	1	Local transmission	0
Slovakia	204	13	0	0	Local transmission	0
Latvia	197	17	0	0	Local transmission	0
Andorra	188	24	1	0	Local transmission	0
San Marino	187	0	21	1	Local transmission	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	164	33	2	1	Local transmission	0
North Macedonia	148	12	2	0	Local transmission	0
Albania	146	23	5	1	Local transmission	0
Republic of Moldova	125	16	1	0	Local transmission	0
Cyprus	124	8	3	3	Local transmission	0
Malta	120	13	0	0	Local transmission	0
Ukraine	113	29	4	1	Local transmission	0
Azerbaijan	87	15	1	0	Local transmission	0
Belarus	81	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Kazakhstan	79	16	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Georgia	73	6	0	0	Local transmission	0
Uzbekistan	50	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Liechtenstein	47	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Kyrgyzstan	42	26	0	0	Local transmission	0
Montenegro	29	7	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Monaco	23	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Holy See	1	0	0	0	Under investigation	18
Territories**						
Faroe Islands	122	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Kosovo ^[1]	63	2	1	0	Local transmission	0
Guernsey	23	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
Isle of Man	23	10	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Jersey	16	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Gibraltar	15	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Greenland	4	0	0	0	Under investigation	1
South-East Asia Region						
Thailand	934	107	4	0	Local transmission	0
Indonesia	686	107	55	6	Local transmission	0
India	562	128	9	0	Local transmission	0
Sri Lanka	102	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bangladesh	39	6	4	1	Local transmission	0
Maldives	13	0	0	0	Local transmission	9
Myanmar	3	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Bhutan	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	5
Nepal	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Timor-Leste	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24811	1762	1934	122	Local transmission	0
Pakistan	991	104	7	1	Local transmission	0
Saudi Arabia	767	205	1	1	Local transmission	0
Qatar	526	25	0	0	Local transmission	0

Egypt	402	36	20	1	Local transmission	0
Bahrain	392	15	3	1	Local transmission	0
Iraq	316	50	27	4	Local transmission	0
Lebanon	304	37	4	0	Local transmission	0
United Arab Emirates	248	50	2	0	Local transmission	0
Kuwait	195	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Morocco	170	27	5	1	Local transmission	0
Jordan	153	26	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Tunisia	114	25	3	0	Local transmission	0
Oman	99	15	0	0	Local transmission	0
Afghanistan	74	32	1	0	Imported cases only	0
Djibouti	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Sudan	3	1	1	0	Imported cases only	0
Libya	1	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Somalia	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	8
Syrian Arab Republic	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian territory	60	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	51914	9750	673	202	Local transmission	0
Brazil	2201	655	46	21	Local transmission	0
Canada	1739	307	25	5	Local transmission	0
Ecuador	1049	259	27	12	Local transmission	0
Chile	922	176	2	1	Local transmission	0
Peru	416	21	5	3	Local transmission	0
Mexico	370	0	4	0	Local transmission	1
Panama	345	0	6	0	Local transmission	1
Dominican Republic	312	67	6	3	Local transmission	0
Colombia	306	29	3	0	Local transmission	0
Argentina	301	35	4	0	Local transmission	0
Costa Rica	177	19	2	0	Local transmission	0
Uruguay	162	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	77	7	0	0	Local transmission	0
Trinidad and Tobago	57	6	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cuba	48	8	1	0	Local transmission	0
Honduras	30	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	28	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Paraguay	27	5	2	1	Local transmission	0
Guatemala	21	1	1	0	Local transmission	0
Jamaica	21	2	1	0	Local transmission	0
Barbados	18	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Haiti	7	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Suriname	6	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
El Salvador	5	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Guyana	5	0	1	0	Local transmission	6
Bahamas	4	0	0	0	Local transmission	4
Antigua and Barbuda	3	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Saint Lucia	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Dominica	2	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Nicaragua	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3

Belize	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Grenada	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	12
Territories**						
Guadeloupe	73	11	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Martinique	57	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Puerto Rico	39	8	2	0	Imported cases only	0
French Guiana	23	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
United States Virgin Islands	17	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Aruba	12	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
Saint Martin	8	0	0	0	Under investigation	1
Bermuda	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Curaçao	6	2	1	0	Imported cases only	0
Cayman Islands	5	0	1	0	Imported cases only	1
Saint Barthélemy	3	0	0	0	Under investigation	9
Sint Maarten	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Montserrat	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	7
Turks and Caicos Islands	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
African Region						
South Africa	554	152	0	0	Local transmission	0
Algeria	264	33	17	0	Local transmission	0
Burkina Faso	114	15	3	0	Local transmission	0
Senegal	86	7	0	0	Local transmission	0
Cameroon	72	0	1	1	Local transmission	1
Côte d'Ivoire	72	47	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Ghana	53	26	2	0	Local transmission	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	45	9	2	0	Local transmission	0
Mauritius	42	6	2	2	Imported cases only	0
Nigeria	42	20	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Rwanda	40	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Kenya	25	9	0	0	Local transmission	0
Togo	20	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Madagascar	19	6	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Ethiopia	12	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
United Republic of Tanzania	12	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Uganda	9	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Seychelles	7	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Equatorial Guinea	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Gabon	6	0	1	0	Imported cases only	2
Benin	5	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Central African Republic	4	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Congo	4	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Eswatini	4	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Guinea	4	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Namibia	4	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cabo Verde	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Chad	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Liberia	3	0	0	0	Local transmission	3

Mozambique	3	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Zambia	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Angola	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Gambia	2	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Mauritania	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	6
Niger	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Zimbabwe	2	0	1	0	Imported cases only	3
Eritrea	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Territories**						
Réunion	83	12	0	0	Local transmission	0
Mayotte	30	6	0	0	Local transmission	0
Subtotal for all regions	412755	40712	18426	2202		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	7	0	Local transmission	9
Grand total	414179	40712	18440	2202		

*Numbers include both domestic and repatriated cases

†The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

‡Case classifications are based on [WHO case definitions](#) for COVID-19.

§Transmission classification is based on WHO analysis of available official data and may be subject to reclassification as additional data become available. Countries/territories/areas experiencing multiple types of transmission are classified in the highest category for which there is evidence; they may be removed from a given category if interruption of transmission can be demonstrated. It should be noted that even within categories, different countries/territories/areas may have differing degrees of transmission as indicated by the differing numbers of cases and other factors. Not all locations within a given country/territory/area are equally affected.

Terms:

- **Community transmission** is evidenced by the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing positive tests through sentinel samples (routine systematic testing of respiratory samples from established laboratories).
- **Local transmission** indicates locations where the source of infection is within the reporting location.
- **Imported cases only** indicates locations where all cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting.
- **Under investigation** indicates locations where type of transmission has not been determined for any cases.
- **Interrupted transmission** indicates locations where interruption of transmission has been demonstrated (details to be determined)

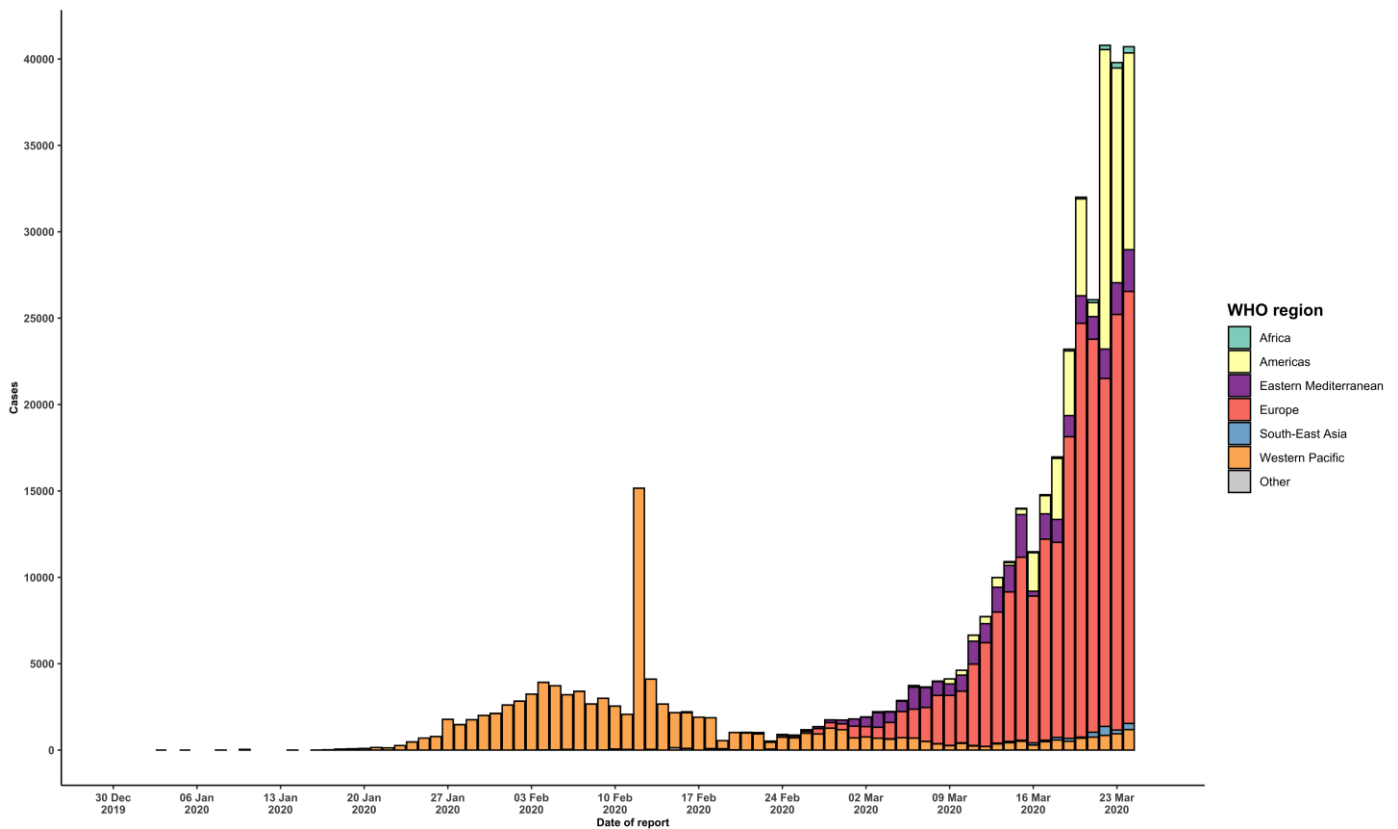
** "Territories" include territories, areas, overseas dependencies and other jurisdictions of similar status

[1] All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Due to differences in reporting methods, retrospective data consolidation, and reporting delays, the number of new cases may not always reflect the exact difference between yesterday's and today's totals. WHO COVID-19 Situation Reports present official counts of confirmed COVID-19 cases, thus differences between WHO reports and other sources of COVID-19 data using different inclusion criteria and different data cutoff times are to be expected.

New countries/territories/areas are shown in **red**.

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 25 March 2020



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHO's strategic objectives for this response are to:

- Interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events, and preventing further international spread*;
- Identify, isolate and care for patients early, including providing optimized care for infected patients;
- Identify and reduce transmission from the animal source;
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission and infection, treatment options, and accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines;
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation;
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

*This can be achieved through a combination of public health measures, such as rapid identification, diagnosis and management of the cases, identification and follow up of the contacts, infection prevention and control in health care settings, implementation of health measures for travelers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- To view all technical guidance documents regarding COVID-19, please go to [this webpage](#).
- WHO has developed interim guidance for laboratory diagnosis, advice on the use of masks during home care and in health care settings in the context of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, clinical management, infection prevention and control in health care settings, home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus, risk communication and community engagement and Global Surveillance for human infection with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
- WHO is working closely with International Air Transport Association (IATA) and have jointly developed a guidance document to provide advice to cabin crew and airport workers, based on country queries. The guidance can be found on the [IATA webpage](#).
- WHO has been in regular and direct contact with Member States where cases have been reported. WHO is also informing other countries about the situation and providing support as requested.
- WHO is working with its networks of researchers and other experts to coordinate global work on surveillance, epidemiology, mathematical modelling, diagnostics and virology, clinical care and treatment, infection prevention and control, and risk communication. WHO has issued interim guidance for countries, which are updated regularly.
- WHO has prepared a [disease commodity package](#) that includes an essential list of biomedical equipment, medicines and supplies necessary to care for patients with 2019-nCoV.
- WHO has provided recommendations to reduce risk of [transmission from animals to humans](#).
- WHO has published an [updated advice for international traffic in relation to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV](#).
- WHO has activated the R&D blueprint to accelerate diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.
- OpenWHO is an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. [COVID-19 courses can be found here](#) and courses in [additional national languages here](#). Specifically, WHO has developed online courses on the following topics:
 - A general introduction to emerging respiratory viruses, including novel coronaviruses (available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Hindi, Indian Sign Language, Persian, Portuguese, Serbian and Turkish);
 - Clinical care for Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (available in English, French, Russian, Indonesian and Vietnamese);
 - Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases - ePROTECT (available in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Indonesian and Portuguese);
 - Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (available in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Serbian); and
 - COVID-19 Operational Planning Guidelines and COVID-19 Partners Platform to support country preparedness and response (available in English and coming soon in additional languages).
- WHO is providing guidance on early investigations, which are critical in an outbreak of a new virus. The data collected from the protocols can be used to refine recommendations for surveillance and case definitions, to characterize the key epidemiological transmission features of COVID-19, help understand spread, severity, spectrum of disease, impact on the community and to inform operational models for implementation of countermeasures such as case isolation, contact tracing and isolation. Several protocols are available [here](#). One such protocol is for the investigation of early COVID-19 cases and contacts (the "[First Few X \(FFX\) Cases and contact investigation protocol for 2019-novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) infection](#)"). The protocol is designed to gain an early understanding of the key clinical, epidemiological and virological characteristics of the first cases of COVID-19 infection detected in any individual country, to inform the development and updating of public health guidance to manage cases and reduce the potential spread and impact of infection.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

If you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not travelled from an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not been in contact with an infected patient, your risk of infection is low. It is understandable that you may feel anxious about the outbreak. Get the facts from reliable sources to help you accurately determine your risks so that you can take reasonable precautions (see [Frequently Asked Questions](#)). Seek guidance from WHO, your healthcare provider, your national public health authority or your employer for accurate information on COVID-19 and whether COVID-19 is circulating where you live. It is important to be informed of the situation and take appropriate measures to protect yourself and your family (see [Protection measures for everyone](#)).

If you are in an area where there are cases of COVID-19 you need to take the risk of infection seriously. Follow the advice of WHO and guidance issued by national and local health authorities. For most people, COVID-19 infection will cause mild illness however, it can make some people very ill and, in some people, it can be fatal. Older people, and those with pre-existing medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease or diabetes) are at risk for severe disease (See [Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited \(past 14 days\) areas where COVID-19 is spreading](#)).

CASE DEFINITIONS

WHO periodically updates the [Global Surveillance for human infection with coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#) document which includes case definitions.

For easy reference, case definitions are included below.

Suspect case

A. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

OR

B. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of contact) in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

C. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; AND requiring hospitalization) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

Probable case

A. A suspect case for whom testing for the COVID-19 virus is inconclusive.

a. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory.

OR

B. A suspect case for whom testing could not be performed for any reason.

Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

- Technical guidance for laboratory testing can be found [here](#).

Definition of contact

A contact is a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days

after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:

1. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes;
2. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case;
3. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment¹; OR
4. Other situations as indicated by local risk assessments.

Note: for confirmed asymptomatic cases, the period of contact is measured as the 2 days before through the 14 days *after the date on which the sample was taken* which led to confirmation.

¹ World Health Organization. Infection prevention and control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected
[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125)