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MINISTRY OF HEALTH - ETHIOPIA  
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HEALTHIER CITIZENS FOR PROSPEROUS NATION



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ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE DAILY SITUATION REPORT ETHIOPIA

(Data reported as at 16:30hrs EAT (GMT+3), 01 April 2020)

01 April 2020

ISSUE  
NO

69

## HIGHLIGHTS

- There are 3 newly detected COVID-19 cases bringing the total confirmed cases to 29 in the country.
- Two of the COVID-19 confirmed cases recovered.
- COVID-19 testing has been started at Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) and National Animal Health Diagnosis and Investigation Center (NAHDIC)
- 26 new rumors /alerts were received today. Of these, 18 of them fulfill the suspected case definition.
- 15 new contacts of confirmed cases have identified today bringing the number of contacts identified so far to about 623
- Zoom meeting has conducted with regional PHEM Focal and discussion held with the hospital CEOs in Addis Ababa
- Team deployed to Dire Dawa city administration

## COVID-19 NATIONAL UPDATE

1121

Passengers under mandatory  
quarantine

882

TRAVELERS  
UNDER PHONE FOLLOW UP

619

RUMORS/Alerts  
RECEIVED and INVESTIGATED

623

Contacts of the confirmed cases

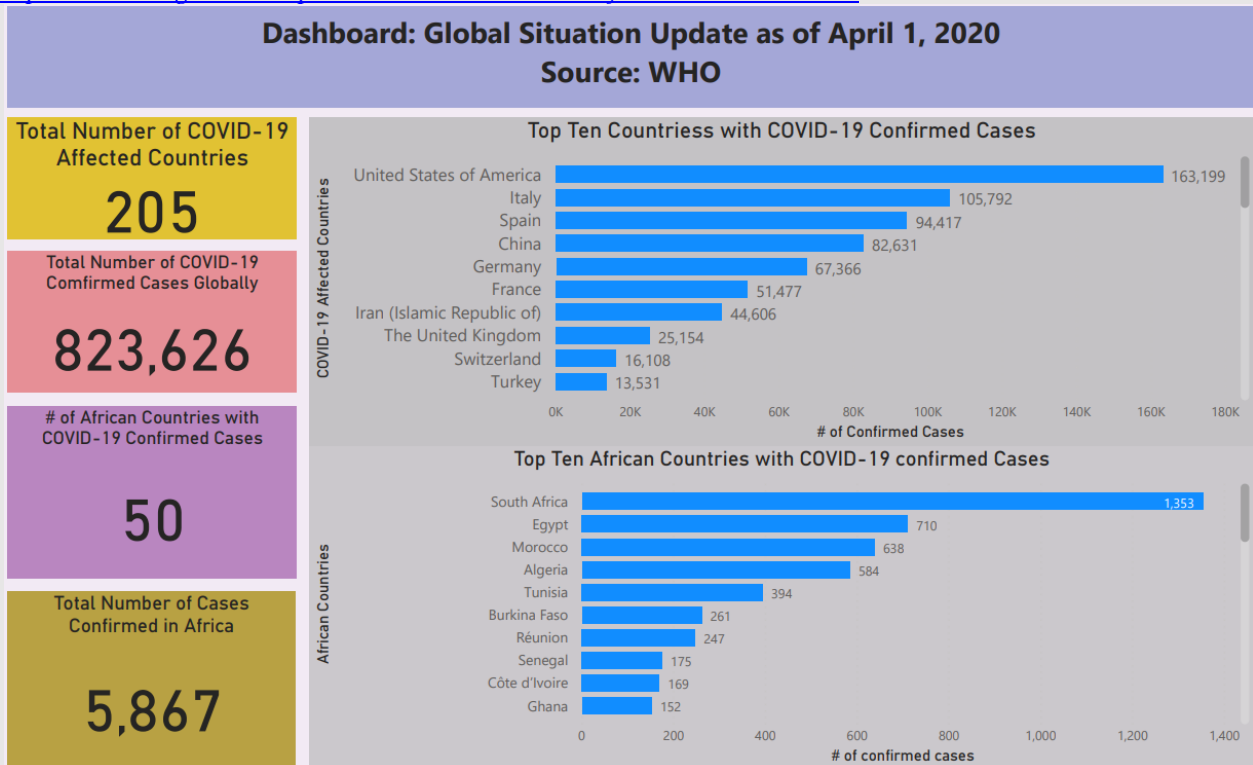
314

SUSPECTED CASES  
DETECTED

# COVID-19 GLOBAL UPDATE

Access link for WHO COVID-19 monitoring dashboard:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beee1b9125cd>



## MAJOR COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS IN ETHIOPIA

### BACKGROUND

Ethiopia activated its IMS under the national PHEOC. WHO and its partners are currently supporting in scaling up preparedness efforts and implementation of related recommendations suggested by the IHR Emergency Committee. Different layer so coordination platform revitalized and the PHEOC is working collaboratively with various agency representative, Partners, Embassies, hospitality sector, Industrial parks and others. There is strong communication and updating from other countries through IHR-NFPs. The sub-national level is well engaged in the preparedness and response efforts. Joint regular media briefing sessions are being conducted.

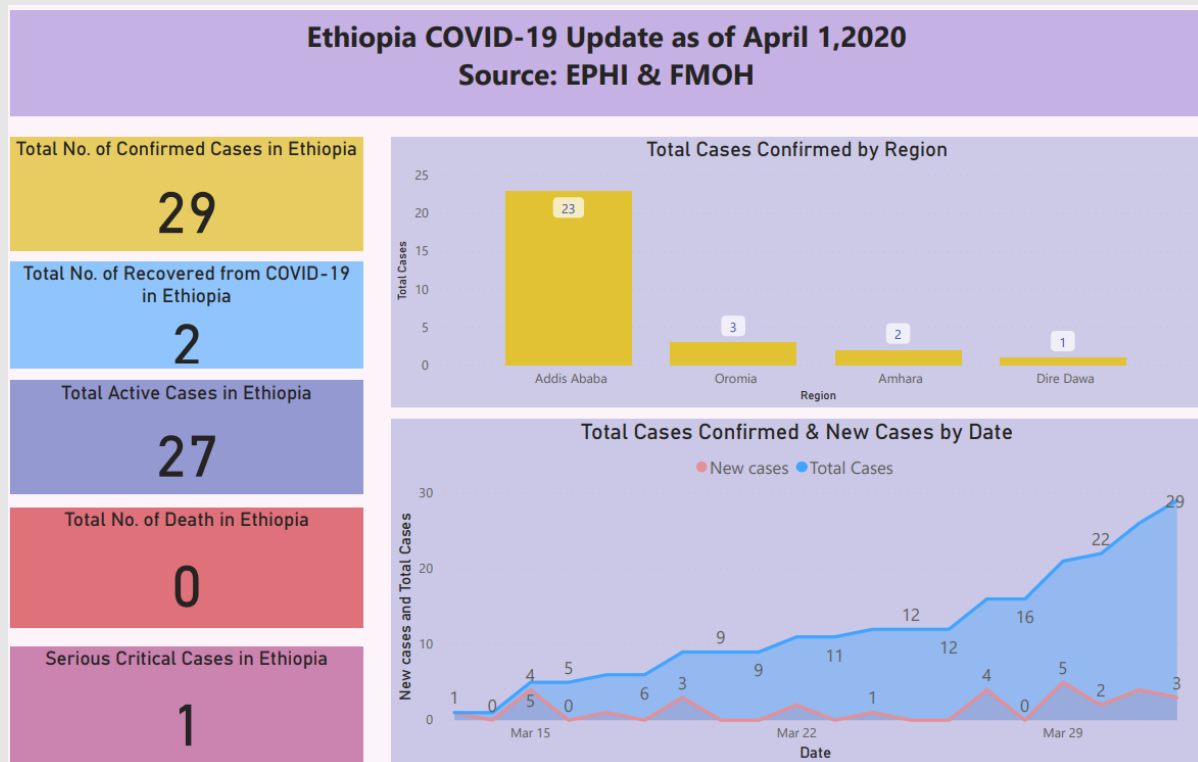
### COORDINATION and COLLABORATION:

- Daily morning and evening briefing of the IMS core staffs and agency representatives is being conducted on daily basis.
- Zoom meeting has conducted with regional PHEM Focal and Oromia, Amhara and Tigray regional states and Addis Ababa city administration have participated.
- Discussion held with the hospital CEOs in Addis Ababa and updated on the current COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts and discussed on the expectation from them
- Team from central PHEOC deployed to Dire Dawa city administration to support the activities related with the confirmed case

# EPIDEMIOLOGY and LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE

## Confirmed COVID-19 cases:

- There are 3 newly detected COVID-19 cases bringing the total confirmed cases to 29 in the country.
- Two of the COVID-19 confirmed cases have recovered.
- One of the patients is getting care in Intensive Care Unit.



## Laboratory test:

- So far, a total of 1083 samples are tested from suspected cases, contacts of confirmed cases, SARI/Pneumonia from major selected hospitals in Addis Ababa and backlogged influenza samples.
- A total of 68 samples are tested within 24hrs of which 3 are positive and 65 are negative for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 testing has been started at Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) and National Animal Health Diagnosis and Investigation Center (NAHDIC) on 4 RT-PCR machines (2 machines each) with a capacity of 400 tests per day.

## Contact tracing and follow-up:

- As of April 1, 2020:
  - a total of 623 (15 new) contacts of confirmed cases have been identified.
  - 267 (45 new) have completed the 14 days follow-up, while 348 contacts are still on follow-up.
  - 22 (three new) contacts developed COVID-19 suggestive symptoms.
  - Eight of the symptomatic contacts were tested positive, which are among the currently existing confirmed positive cases.
- There have been no contacts lost to follow-up.

## **Rumors collection and verification from all sources**

- As of April 1, 2020:
  - 619 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 26 new (16 via the call center) reported on today
  - 314 rumors/alerts (18 new) have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- On April 1, 2020, a total of 7,926 calls received and responded via toll-free call centers.

## **Phone Follow-Up of Travelers from Affected Countries**

- As of April 1, 2020:
  - 882 travelers and discharged suspects are under follow-up.
  - 2,756 travelers (227 new) have completed 14 days of follow-up and graduated from follow-up.
  - One alert detected during follow up.

## **Quarantined passengers follow up:**

- As of April 1, 2020; a total of 1,121 passengers are under mandatory quarantine at designated Hotels. Of these 71 are new arrivals over last night.
- Three alert cases are identified today from passengers under quarantine.

## **PASSENGERS SCREENING**

- A total of 15,273 passengers were linked to the follow up since start of screening to 31 March2020
- Follow up of the mandatory quarantine implementation for passengers coming from abroad via BIA in ongoing.
- Health screening for arriving international passengers is ongoing.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC):**

- There are 25 confirmed cases in the case treatment centers current. Of these, two are under treatment in the designated treatment center in Bahir Dar, Amhara regional state and one is in Dire Dawa city administration
- One critical case is in the ICU and the remaining cases are on medical care in stable condition.
- 18 suspected cases are admitted today.
- 17 initially suspected cases are discharged after laboratory test became negative.

## **LOGISTICS, ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

- 140 infrared thermometers collected from Ethiopian Standards Agency and distribution started for regions and health facilities as per the distribution plan

## **RISK COMMUNICATION:**

- Community engagement follow-up conducted on Amhara and SNNP regional states as per the developed checklist.
- Press release on newly confirmed COVID-19 cases shared for the public.

## **MEDIA / WEB SCANNING:**

### **Covid-19 and loss of smell (2, 3)**

- It is theoretically possible that coronavirus could infect the region of the brain responsible for smell.
- The complete loss of smell, or anosmia, is already associated with viruses; about 40% of anosmia cases occur after a viral infection.
- A growing body of data from COVID-19 patients in several countries strongly suggests that large number of those patients experienced anosmia as one of the disease's symptoms.
- Anecdotal evidence further describes the loss of smell and the loss of taste known as dysgeusia in people who had no other symptoms but who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Nearly 70% of 100 COVID-19 patients interviewed at a university hospital in Germany described a loss of smell and taste lasting several days.
  - It should be noted that the hypothesis has yet to be supported with hard data.

### **References**

1. Covid-19 might cause loss of smell. Here is what that could mean. By Nicoletta Lanese. LIVE SCIENCE. March 27, 2020.
2. Loss of smell could be a symptom of covid-19 by mindy weisberger. March 27, 2020.

**8335 / 952**



**Call-Centers**  
**FOR MORE INFO and**  
**ALERT NOTIFICATION on**  
**COVID-19**



The above presented Quick Reader (QR) code takes you to a portal that you can access updates and all COVID-19 related information available  
(<https://www.ephi.gov.et/index.php/public-health-emergency/novel-corona-virus-update>)

**DISCLAIMER**

Figures presented in this situation report are pulled from official releases of the World Health Organization,  
Other sources from the web, as well as report compiled by the National Incidence Response Team

**PREPARED BY**

Fantu Lombamo (MD, MPH) and Negusse Yohannis (PhD)  
National PHEOC, Planning Section, documentation Unit

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Firmaye Bogale (Planning Section, PHEOC)

**EDITED and REVIEWED BY**

Shambel Habebe (Planning Section Chief) and  
Zewdu Assefa (COVID-19 Incident Manager)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION and NOTIFICATION**

Web: [www.ephi.gov.et](http://www.ephi.gov.et)

Follow us on Twitter: @EPHIethiopia

Call: 8335 (TOLL FREE LINE) or 011 276 5340

Email: [ephieoc@gmail.com](mailto:ephieoc@gmail.com) or [phemdatacenter@gmail.com](mailto:phemdatacenter@gmail.com)

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National Public Health Emergency Operation Center  
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