

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 98

Data as received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, 27 April 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- The WHO Regional Office for the Americas has published a document providing guidance regarding the operation of immunization programs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. More information is available [here](#).
- The Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare of Spain has recently changed its criteria for reporting COVID-19 cases to include only those with positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test results. This has resulted in a retrospective decrease of 12,130 cases. Spain will continue to report only new PCR positive cases.
- An update on Emergency Medical Teams, the Global Health Cluster, the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, and Risk Communications and Community Engagement is provided in today's 'Subject in Focus' below.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Globally

2 878 196 confirmed (85 530)

198 668 deaths (4982)

European Region

1 359 380 confirmed (29 659)

124 525 deaths (2307)

Region of the Americas

1 140 520 confirmed (45 674)

58 492 deaths (2453)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

165 933 confirmed (5347)

6991 deaths (104)

Western Pacific Region

144 121 confirmed (1482)

5958 deaths (15)

South-East Asia Region

46 060 confirmed (2214)

1824 deaths (77)

African Region

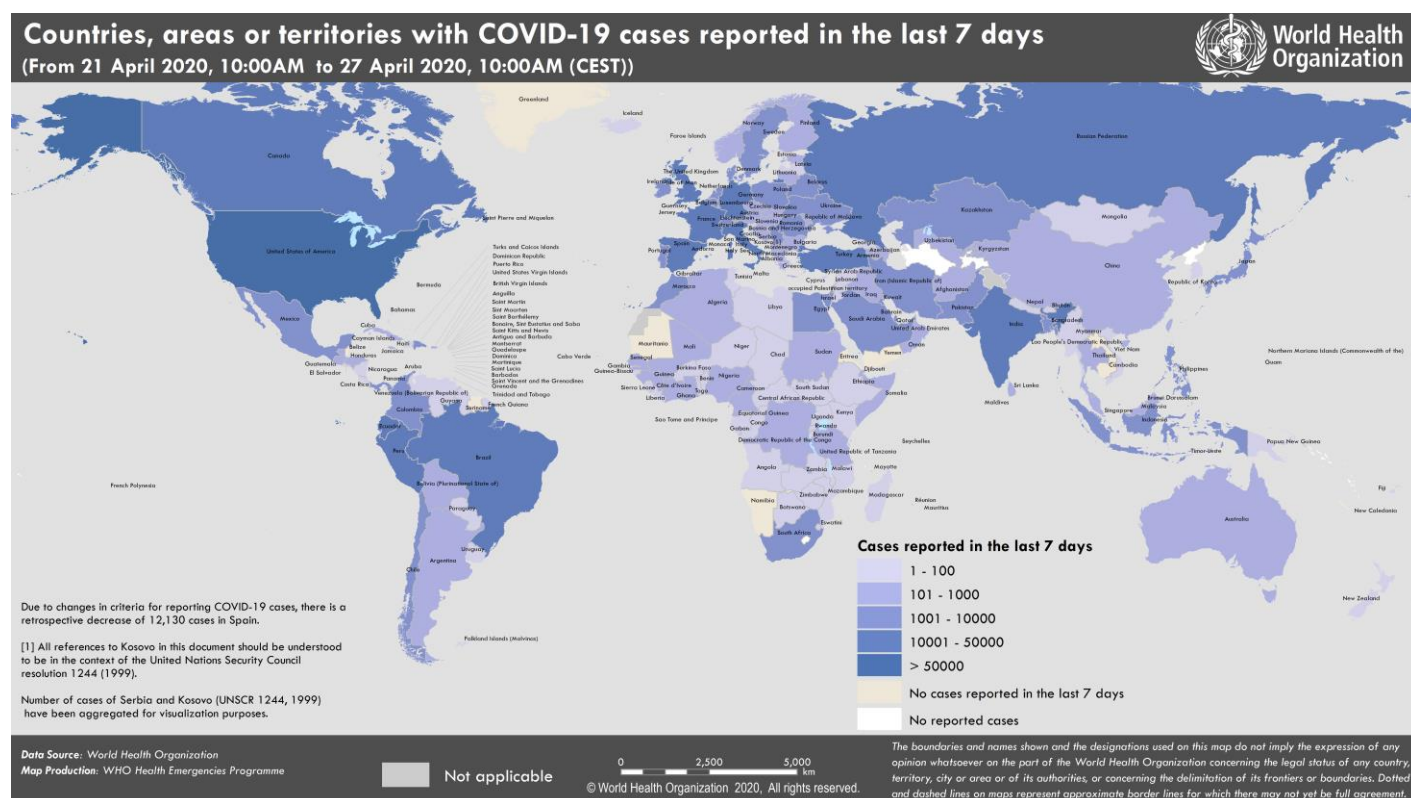
21 470 confirmed (1154)

865 deaths (26)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 27 April 2020



SUBJECT IN FOCUS: Partner Coordination

Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)

- A weekly Global Coordination Call continues to be held, providing the network with updates on current operations, technical guidance, and sharing of current experiences and practices from various EMT responses to COVID-19. For current operations, the EMT Secretariat provides information on requests for global support to raise awareness and facilitate deployments of available EMTs.
- Nineteen International EMTs classified and/or in the classification process have deployed to fifteen countries across three WHO regions.
- Thirty-six EMTs are responding nationally to support and reinforce local health systems in all Regions.
- Additional deployments of Chinese EMTs are expected to Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe. WHO is currently working with the EMTs and countries to facilitate additional teams to Comoros and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Global Health Cluster (GHC)

- WHO and the GHC are coordinating inputs from partners on the first update of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) including mental health and psychosocial services, gender-based violence, protection and specific needs of older people and migrants, minimum Sphere humanitarian standards, and issues related to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).
- Analysis is ongoing to strengthen projections and service requirements for COVID-19 cases and wider humanitarian needs; and monitoring the impact of COVID-19 protection measures on access to essential health services.
- Reports from field locations highlight the challenges of contact tracing and sample collection in insecure areas; insufficient personal protective equipment for partners supporting health facilities; and the additional challenges of operating with staff in self-quarantine.
- GHC partners were briefed on the development of the UN COVID-19 Supply Chain Taskforce; and a webinar was held for all Health Cluster Coordinators on isolation in humanitarian settings.
- Interim Guidance on Public Health and Social Measures for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response in Low Capacity and Humanitarian Settings is under development.

Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)

- UNICEF, IFRC, US CDC, and OCHA continue to work closely with WHO, embedded in the global COVID-19 incident management team; and are supporting all pillars of response.
- WHO continues to facilitate direct and remote technical assistance to countries through GOARN regional and global networks to support health operations.
- A public information hub has been launched on the [GOARN knowledge platform](#) for COVID-19 to facilitate the sharing of resources by partners and other stakeholders.
- IFRC, UNICEF, and WHO with GOARN support are strengthening coordination and collaboration among key stakeholders at the global and regional levels in risk communications and community engagement (RCCE).
- With support from GOARN partners, 23 experts have been deployed or are in the process of deployment to support COVID-19 response directly or remotely. WHO is currently working with GOARN partners and EMTs to provide support in São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste, Italy, and Ecuador.

- A working group of partners has been established on contact tracing, field epidemiology, and using [Go.Data](#) to assist the urgent scale up of contact tracing capacity.

Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- The tripartite partnership of IFRC, UNICEF, and WHO is leading activities on Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE).
- The tripartite priorities and upcoming guides, research and tools include social, cultural, and behavioural insights to guide strategies and response actions. They also provide recommendations for home care, community engagement for post-lockdown, and for low-resource settings and vulnerable populations.
- Coordination is focused on linkages between country-level RCCE efforts and broader humanitarian community engagement and coordination.

GOARN COVID-19 Research

Current activities include:

- Support to the WHO-convened COVID-19 Research Roadmap Social Science Working Group.
- Support to RCCE tripartite (WHO, UNICEF, IFRC) to identify emerging research needs that GOARN can support and disseminate findings, and support to *ad hoc* groups to address emerging operational issues. A repository of RCCE research and assessment tools is available on the [GOARN COVID-19 Knowledge Hub](#).
- Rapid literature searches and evidence reviews with 24-hour turn-around. Requests are through an online portal supported by Librarian Reserve Corps. Priority is given to GOARN operational partners and WHO technical leads. These outputs are sent directly to the requester and posted on the open access [GOARN COVID-19 Knowledge Hub](#). The Librarian Reserve Corps also curates a daily research publications list that is posted on the open access GOARN COVID-19 Knowledge Hub.
- Support for the integration of guidance, training, and tools for contact tracing for COVID-19, including communication of practitioners, and links to Field Epidemiology Training Programmes (FETPs), alumni, regional and global networks, WHO and GOARN field epidemiology partners, and stakeholders, and the Go.Data community.

SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, by WHO region. * Data as of 27 April 2020

Reporting Country/ Territory/Area [†]	Total confirmed [‡] cases	New confirmed cases	Total deaths	New deaths	Transmission classification [§]	Days since last reported case
Western Pacific Region						
China	84341	3	4643	1	Clusters of cases	0
Singapore	13624	931	12	0	Clusters of cases	0
Japan	13385	203	351	3	Clusters of cases	0
Republic of Korea	10738	10	243	1	Clusters of cases	0
Philippines	7579	285	501	7	Clusters of cases	0
Australia	6713	10	83	2	Clusters of cases	0
Malaysia	5780	38	98	0	Clusters of cases	0
New Zealand	1122	1	19	1	Clusters of cases	0
Viet Nam	270	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	2
Brunei Darussalam	138	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	7
Cambodia	122	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	15
Mongolia	38	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	14
Fiji	18	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	6
Papua New Guinea	8	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
Territories**						
Guam	137	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	1
French Polynesia	57	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	5
New Caledonia	18	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	24
Northern Mariana Islands (Common- wealth of the)	14	0	2	0	Pending	9
European Region						
Spain	207634	0	23190	666	Pending	0
Italy	197675	2324	26644	260	Community transmission	0
Germany	155193	1018	5750	110	Community transmission	0
The United Kingdom	152844	4463	20732	413	Community transmission	0
France	123279	404	22821	241	Community transmission	0
Turkey	110130	2357	2805	99	Community transmission	0
Russian Federation	87147	12559	794	113	Clusters of cases	0
Belgium	46134	809	7094	177	Community transmission	0
Netherlands	37845	655	4475	66	Community transmission	0
Switzerland	28978	0	1336	0	Community transmission	1

Portugal	23864	472	903	23	Pending	0
Ireland	19262	701	1087	24	Community transmission	0
Sweden	18640	463	2194	2	Community transmission	0
Israel	15398	0	199	0	Pending	1
Austria	15189	55	542	6	Community transmission	0
Poland	11617	344	535	11	Pending	0
Romania	11036	401	608	33	Community transmission	0
Belarus	10463	873	72	5	Clusters of cases	0
Ukraine	9009	392	220	11	Community transmission	0
Denmark	8575	130	422	4	Pending	0
Serbia	8042	263	156	5	Pending	0
Norway	7505	38	193	0	Pending	0
Czechia	7404	52	221	3	Community transmission	0
Finland	4576	101	190	4	Pending	0
Luxembourg	3723	12	88	3	Pending	0
Republic of Moldova	3408	104	96	2	Pending	0
Kazakhstan	2791	190	25	0	Pending	0
Hungary	2583	83	280	8	Clusters of cases	0
Greece	2506	0	130	0	Community transmission	1
Croatia	2030	14	55	1	Community transmission	0
Uzbekistan	1887	22	8	0	Clusters of cases	0
Armenia	1808	62	29	1	Clusters of cases	0
Iceland	1792	2	10	0	Community transmission	0
Azerbaijan	1645	28	21	0	Clusters of cases	0
Estonia	1643	8	49	3	Pending	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1516	31	58	2	Community transmission	0
Lithuania	1449	11	41	0	Community transmission	0
Slovenia	1407	19	82	1	Community transmission	0
North Macedonia	1386	19	61	2	Clusters of cases	0
Slovakia	1379	6	18	1	Clusters of cases	0
Bulgaria	1300	53	56	1	Pending	0
Cyprus	817	7	17	0	Clusters of cases	0
Latvia	812	8	12	0	Pending	0
Andorra	740	2	40	0	Community transmission	0
Albania	726	14	28	1	Clusters of cases	0
Kyrgyzstan	695	13	8	0	Pending	0
San Marino	538	25	41	1	Community transmission	0

Georgia	496	11	6	1	Community transmission	0
Malta	448	0	4	0	Pending	1
Montenegro	321	2	7	1	Clusters of cases	0
Liechtenstein	83	0	1	0	Pending	1
Monaco	68	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	13
Holy See	9	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	6
Territories **						
Kosovo ^[1]	763	32	21	1	Community transmission	0
Isle of Man	308	0	18	0	Pending	2
Jersey	280	2	19	0	Pending	0
Guernsey	245	0	12	1	Community transmission	2
Faroe Islands	187	0	0	0	Pending	3
Gibraltar	141	5	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Greenland	11	0	0	0	Pending	21
South-East Asia Region						
India	27892	1396	872	48	Clusters of cases	0
Indonesia	8882	275	743	23	Community transmission	0
Bangladesh	5416	418	145	5	Pending	0
Thailand	2931	9	52	1	Pending	0
Sri Lanka	523	63	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Maldives	188	51	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Myanmar	146	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	1
Nepal	51	2	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Timor-Leste	24	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	3
Bhutan	7	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	90481	1153	5710	60	Community transmission	0
Saudi Arabia	17522	1223	139	3	Clusters of cases	0
Pakistan	13328	605	281	12	Clusters of cases	0
United Arab Emirates	10349	536	76	5	Pending	0
Qatar	10287	929	10	0	Pending	0
Egypt	4534	215	317	10	Clusters of cases	0
Morocco	4065	168	161	2	Clusters of cases	0
Kuwait	3075	183	20	1	Clusters of cases	0
Bahrain	2647	58	8	0	Clusters of cases	0
Oman	2049	51	10	0	Clusters of cases	0
Iraq	1820	57	87	1	Clusters of cases	0
Afghanistan	1531	68	50	1	Clusters of cases	0
Djibouti	1023	15	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
Tunisia	949	10	38	0	Community transmission	0
Lebanon	707	3	24	0	Clusters of cases	0
Jordan	447	3	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Somalia	436	46	23	5	Sporadic cases	0
Sudan	237	24	21	4	Sporadic cases	0

Libya	61	0	2	0	Clusters of cases	2
Syrian Arab Republic	42	0	3	0	Community transmission	5
Yemen	1	0	0	0	Pending	16
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian territory	342	0	2	0	Clusters of cases	1
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	931698	32417	47980	1776	Community transmission	0
Brazil	58509	5514	4016	346	Community transmission	0
Canada	45778	1425	2489	139	Community transmission	0
Peru	25331	3683	700	66	Community transmission	0
Ecuador	22719	0	576	0	Community transmission	2
Mexico	13842	970	1305	84	Community transmission	0
Chile	13331	473	189	8	Community transmission	0
Dominican Republic	6135	209	278	5	Community transmission	0
Panama	5538	200	159	5	Community transmission	0
Colombia	5142	261	233	8	Community transmission	0
Argentina	3838	137	179	0	Community transmission	0
Cuba	1369	32	54	3	Clusters of cases	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	866	59	46	2	Clusters of cases	0
Costa Rica	693	6	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Honduras	627	36	59	4	Clusters of cases	0
Uruguay	596	33	14	2	Clusters of cases	0
Guatemala	473	43	15	2	Clusters of cases	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	323	5	10	0	Clusters of cases	0
Jamaica	305	17	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
El Salvador	298	24	8	0	Clusters of cases	0
Paraguay	228	5	9	0	Community transmission	0
Trinidad and Tobago	115	0	8	0	Sporadic cases	4
Barbados	79	2	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Bahamas	78	6	11	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guyana	74	1	8	1	Clusters of cases	0
Haiti	72	0	6	0	Clusters of cases	2
Antigua and Barbuda	24	0	3	0	Clusters of cases	4
Belize	18	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	12
Grenada	18	3	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Dominica	16	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	16
Saint Kitts and Nevis	15	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	6

Saint Lucia	15	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	15
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	14	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Nicaragua	13	2	3	0	Pending	0
Suriname	10	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	23
Territories**						
Puerto Rico	1371	95	53	0	Clusters of cases	0
Martinique	175	5	14	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guadeloupe	149	0	13	1	Clusters of cases	2
Bermuda	109	10	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
French Guiana	109	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	2
Aruba	100	0	2	0	Clusters of cases	4
Sint Maarten	74	1	13	1	Clusters of cases	0
Cayman Islands	70	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	1
United States Virgin Islands	55	0	3	0	Clusters of cases	1
Saint Martin	38	0	3	0	Sporadic cases	4
Curaçao	14	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	18
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	13	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	1
Montserrat	11	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	13
Turks and Caicos Islands	11	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	10
British Virgin Islands	6	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Saint Barthélemy	6	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	27
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	5	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	9
Anguilla	3	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	23
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	19
African Region						
South Africa	4546	185	87	1	Community transmission	0
Algeria	3382	126	425	6	Community transmission	0
Cameroon	1621	103	56	3	Clusters of cases	0
Ghana	1550	271	11	1	Clusters of cases	0
Nigeria	1273	91	40	5	Community transmission	0
Côte d'Ivoire	1150	39	14	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guinea	1094	98	7	0	Community transmission	0
Niger	696	12	29	2	Clusters of cases	0
Senegal	671	57	9	2	Clusters of cases	0
Burkina Faso	632	3	42	1	Community transmission	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	459	17	28	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mali	389	19	23	2	Clusters of cases	0
Kenya	355	12	14	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mauritius	332	1	9	0	Community transmission	0

United Republic of Tanzania	300	0	10	0	Clusters of cases	2
Equatorial Guinea	258	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	1
Congo	200	0	8	0	Clusters of cases	2
Rwanda	191	8	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Gabon	176	0	3	0	Clusters of cases	1
Madagascar	128	4	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Liberia	124	4	12	1	Clusters of cases	0
Ethiopia	123	1	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
Cabo Verde	106	16	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Togo	98	2	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Sierra Leone	93	7	4	1	Clusters of cases	0
Zambia	88	4	3	0	Sporadic cases	0
Mozambique	76	6	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Uganda	75	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Benin	64	6	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Eswatini	59	3	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Guinea-Bissau	53	1	1	1	Sporadic cases	0
Chad	46	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Eritrea	39	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	8
Malawi	34	1	3	0	Sporadic cases	0
Zimbabwe	31	0	4	0	Sporadic cases	1
Angola	26	1	2	0	Sporadic cases	0
Botswana	22	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	4
Central African Republic	19	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Namibia	16	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	21
Burundi	15	3	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Seychelles	11	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	20
Gambia	10	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	6
São Tomé and Príncipe	8	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	3
Mauritania	7	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	16
South Sudan	6	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Territories**						
Réunion	417	5	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mayotte	401	47	4	0	Clusters of cases	0
Subtotal for all Regions	2877484	85530	198655	4982		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	13	0	Not Applicable ^{††}	42
Grand total	2878196	85530	198668	4982		

* Countries are arranged by official WHO regions, in descending order by the number of total confirmed cases. Overseas territories** are listed under the WHO region that administers them.

†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 a process of country/territory/area self-reporting. Classifications are reviewed on a weekly basis and may be upgraded or downgraded as new information becomes available. Not all locations within a given country/territory/area are equally affected; countries/territories/areas experiencing multiple types of transmission are classified in the highest category reported. Within a given transmission category, different countries/territories/areas may have differing degrees of transmission as indicated by the differing numbers of

cases, recency of cases, and other factors.

Terms:

- **No cases:** Countries/territories/areas with no confirmed cases (not shown in table)
- **Sporadic cases:** Countries/territories/areas with one or more cases, imported or locally detected
- **Clusters of cases:** Countries/territories/areas experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures
- **Community transmission:** Countries/area/territories experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to:
 - Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains
 - Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance
 - Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

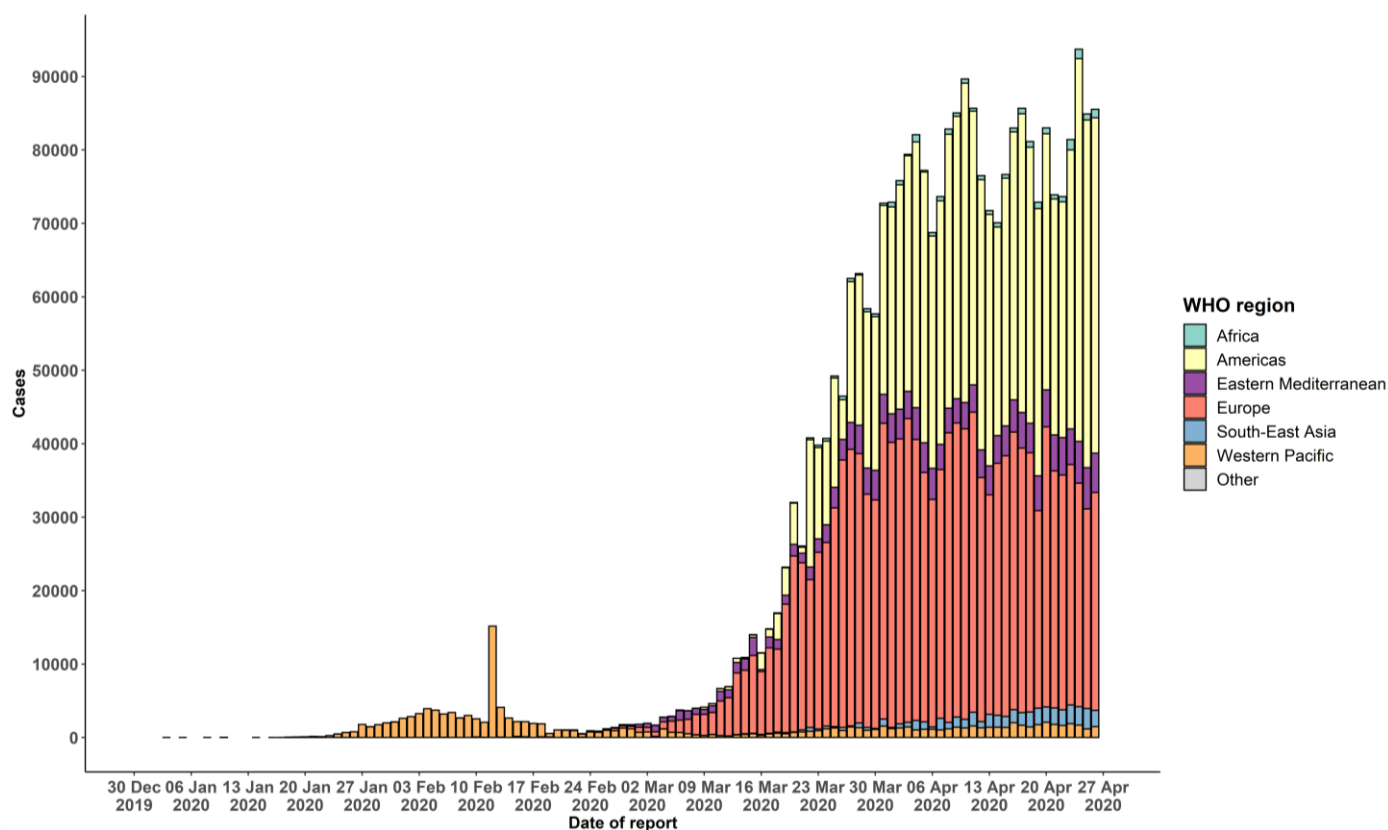
** "Territories" include territories, areas, overseas dependencies and other jurisdictions of similar status

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

†† As the international conveyance (Diamond Princess) is no longer occupied, transmission classification cannot be applied.

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.

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 27 April 2020



Note: Numbers in the epidemic curve have not been adjusted to reflect the data reconciliation in Spain, pending further expected reconciliation.

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 COVID-19 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 COVID-19.
- 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 COVID-19.
- WHO has provided recommendations to reduce risk of [transmission from animals to humans](#).
- WHO has published an [updated recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak](#).
- WHO has activated the R&D blueprint to accelerate diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.
- OpenWHO is an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering free online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. COVID-19 resources are hosted on 2 learning channels: one for [courses in official WHO languages here](#) and a second for [courses in additional national languages here](#).
 - There are more than 1.5 million enrolments in the platform's courses to support the COVID-19 response. Specifically, WHO has developed courses on the following topics:
 - A general introduction to emerging respiratory viruses, including novel coronaviruses (available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Bengali](#), [Hindi](#), [Hungarian](#), [Indian Sign Language](#), [Indonesian](#), [Macedonian](#), [Persian](#), [Portuguese](#), [Serbian](#), [Turkish](#) and [Vietnamese](#));

- Clinical care for Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) (available in [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Indonesian](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Vietnamese](#));
- Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases – ePROTECT (available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Indonesian](#) and [Portuguese](#));
- Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19 (available in [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Indonesian](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Macedonian](#), [Portuguese](#), [Serbian](#) and [Turkish](#));
- COVID-19 operational planning guidelines and partners platform to support country preparedness and response (available in [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Indonesian](#) and [Portuguese](#));
- SARI treatment facility design (available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [Italian](#) and [Portuguese](#));
- An introduction to Go.Data – field data collection, chains of transmission and contact follow-up (available in [English](#) and coming soon in additional languages);
- How to put on and remove personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 (available in [English](#) and coming soon in additional languages); and
- Standard precautions for hand hygiene (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.

Definition of COVID-19 death

COVID-19 death is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery between the illness and death.

Further guidance for certification and classification (coding) of COVID-19 as cause of death is available [here](#).

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)