

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Situation Report – 88

Data as received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, 17 April 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- No new country/territory/area reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- Globally, the number of reported confirmed cases exceeded 2 million.
- WHO has released public health guidance for social and religious practices and gatherings during Ramadan. The guidance also offers advice to strengthen mental and physical wellbeing as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The guidance is available [here](#).
- WHO has released guidance on considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19. This document is intended for national authorities and decision makers in countries that have introduced large scale public health and social measures. It offers guidance for adjusting public health and social measures, while managing the risk of a resurgence of cases. The guidance is available [here](#).
- The Chinese authorities have informed WHO that as cases have declined in China and the strain on the healthcare system has eased, a multisectoral team was established in late March 2020 to perform a comprehensive review of COVID-19 data in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Information from a variety of sources was reviewed, leading to duplicate cases being removed and missed cases added. Following this review, the total number of cases in Wuhan increased by 325 and the total number of deaths increased by 1290.
- As of 11 April 2020, 167 countries, territories and areas have implemented additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic. An updated summary is outlined in the 'Subject in Focus' below.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

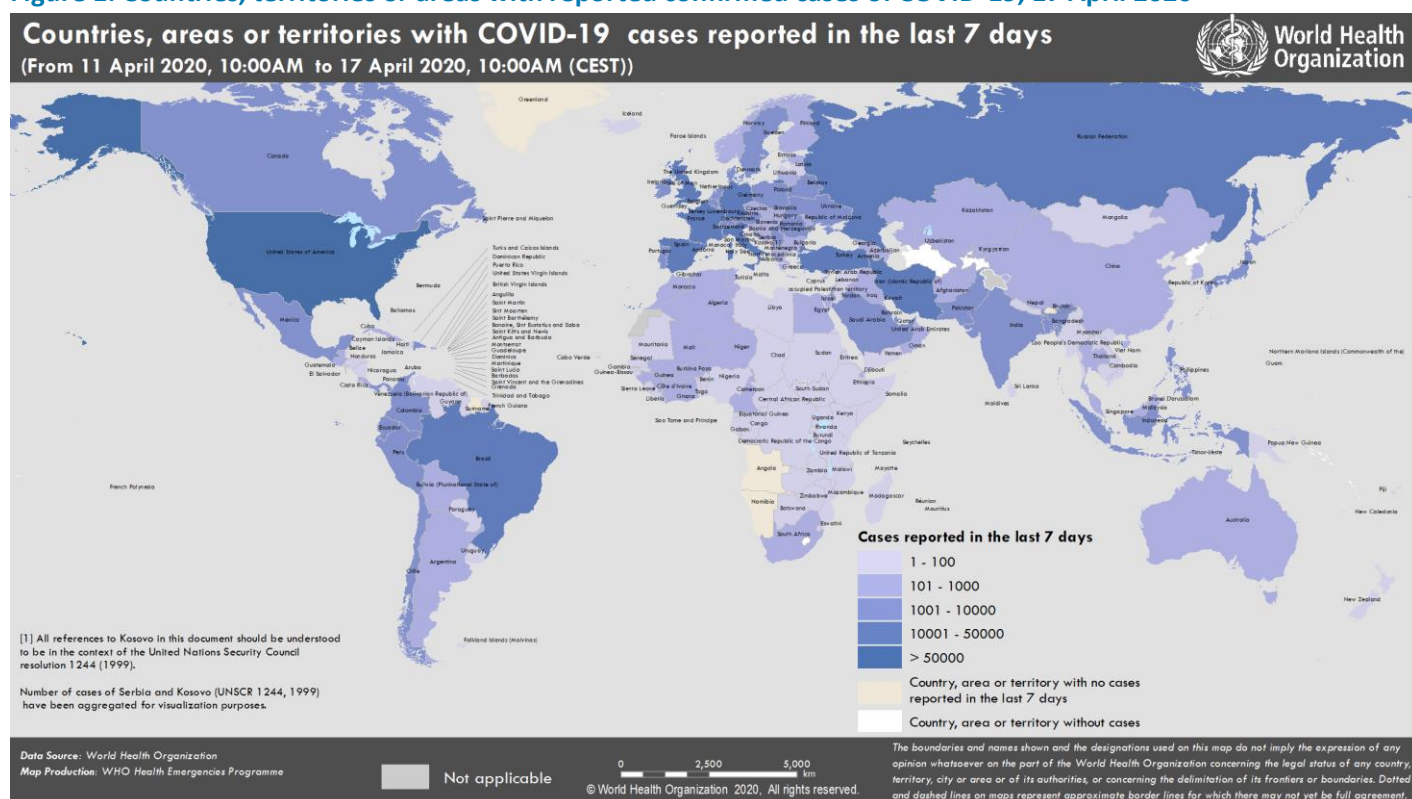
total (new cases in last 24 hours)

#### Globally

2 074 529 confirmed (82 967)

139 378 deaths (849329)

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 17 April 2020



## SUBJECT IN FOCUS: Additional health measures significantly interfere with international traffic

As of 11 April 2020, 167 countries, territories and areas have implemented additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic as defined under Article 43 of the International Health Regulations (2005) (Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of States Parties officially reporting additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic (i.e. more than 24-hour delay), under Article 43 of the IHR (2005), by WHO region**

WHO Region	AFR	AMR/ PAH	EMR	EUR	SEAR	WPR	Total
6 February	-	10	-	2	1	9	22
12 February	1	2	1	1	-	3	8
21 February	-	-	-	2	-	2	4
28 February	-	-	1* 1* update	5 (3*) 1* update	-	1* 6* updates	7
5 March	-	1* 5* updates	1*	2*	-	- 8* updates	4
12 March	-	1	-	5 3 updates	-	3 updates	6
19 March	-	11 12 updates	1 1 update	18 19 updates	6	2 4 updates	38
26 March	22 1 update	6 17 updates	1	6 20 updates	4 8 updates	8 12 updates	47
3 April	6 2 updates	2	9 2 updates	5 15 updates	- 5 updates	- 2 updates	22
9 April	-	-	3 3 updates	4 17 updates	- 3 updates	2 2 updates	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>167</b>

Numbers in parenthesis illustrate the number of reports – new or updates - received since previous announcement.

(\*) designates that the State Party reports on measures directed to other countries in addition to China. Since 17 March, all countries report measures towards more than one country.

Since 6 February 2020, WHO has shared information regarding additional health measures in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak with Member States every week through the Event Information Site, a secure platform accessible by national IHR focal points and United Nations agencies. The majority of measures taken by Member States relate to the denial of entry of passengers from countries experiencing outbreaks, followed by flight suspensions, visa restrictions, border closures, and quarantine measures. The public health rationale provided by States relates to these measures being part of a comprehensive set of interventions aiming at reducing the spread of the disease, the unknowns about the new virus and the disease, perceived vulnerabilities and concerns about overburdening the public health response capacities, limited capacities to quarantine returning travelers, specificities of small islands states, and the absence of treatment or vaccine.

WHO has held weekly technical coordination meetings with the aviation and tourism sectors. WHO also produces regularly updated guidance and online courses on points of entry and mass gatherings which is available [here](#). The UN International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) published an analysis of the economic impact of COVID-19 on civil aviation yesterday, which is available [here](#). Airport Council International has also published a survey of good practices at major airports on operations during COVID-19, available [here](#). The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has recently published a Quick Reference Guide for Ground Handling during COVID-19, which can be found [here](#).

## SURVEILLANCE

**Table 2. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 17 April 2020\***

Reporting Country/ Territory/Area <sup>†</sup>	Total confirmed ‡ cases	Total confirmed new cases	Total deaths	Total new deaths	Transmission classification <sup>§</sup>	Days since last reported case
<b>Western Pacific Region</b>						
China	84149	352	4642	1290	Clusters of cases	0
Republic of Korea	10635	22	230	1	Clusters of cases	0
Japan	9167	585	148	12	Clusters of cases	0
Australia	6468	10	63	0	Clusters of cases	0
Philippines	5660	207	362	13	Clusters of cases	0
Malaysia	5182	110	84	1	Clusters of cases	0
Singapore	4427	728	10	0	Clusters of cases	0
New Zealand	1086	2	11	2	Clusters of cases	0
Viet Nam	268	1	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Brunei Darussalam	136	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	6
Cambodia	122	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	5
Mongolia	31	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
Fiji	17	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Papua New Guinea	7	5	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
<b>Territories**</b>						
Guam	135	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	2
French Polynesia	55	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	3
New Caledonia	18	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	14
Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of the)	13	0	2	0	Pending	2
<b>European Region</b>						
Spain	182816	5183	19130	551	Pending	0
Italy	168941	3786	22172	525	Pending	0
Germany	133830	3380	3868	299	Pending	0
France	107778	2623	17899	753	Pending	0
The United Kingdom	103097	4617	13729	861	Pending	0
Turkey	74193	4801	1643	125	Community transmission	0
Belgium	34809	1236	4857	417	Pending	0
Russian Federation	32008	4070	273	41	Clusters of cases	0
Netherlands	29214	1061	3315	181	Pending	0
Switzerland	26651	315	1016	43	Community transmission	0
Portugal	18841	750	629	30	Pending	0
Austria	14448	78	410	17	Pending	0
Ireland	13271	724	486	42	Pending	0
Israel	12591	391	140	14	Pending	0

Sweden	12540	613	1333	130	Pending	0
Poland	7918	336	314	28	Pending	0
Romania	7707	491	387	15	Pending	0
Denmark	6879	198	321	12	Pending	0
Norway	6791	114	136	6	Pending	0
Czechia	6433	130	169	3	Pending	0
Serbia	5318	445	103	4	Pending	0
Ukraine	4662	500	125	10	Community transmission	0
Belarus	4204	476	40	4	Clusters of cases	0
Luxembourg	3444	71	69	0	Pending	0
Finland	3369	132	75	3	Pending	0
Greece	2207	15	105	3	Pending	0
Republic of Moldova	2154	105	54	8	Pending	0
Croatia	1791	50	35	1	Pending	0
Hungary	1763	111	156	14	Pending	0
Iceland	1739	12	8	0	Pending	0
Kazakhstan	1480	185	16	0	Pending	0
Estonia	1434	32	36	1	Pending	0
Uzbekistan	1380	31	4	0	Clusters of cases	0
Azerbaijan	1283	30	15	2	Clusters of cases	0
Slovenia	1268	20	61	0	Pending	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1169	53	42	1	Community transmission	0
Armenia	1159	24	18	0	Clusters of cases	0
Lithuania	1149	58	32	3	Pending	0
North Macedonia	1081	107	46	1	Clusters of cases	0
Slovakia	977	114	8	2	Pending	0
Bulgaria	800	53	38	2	Pending	0
Cyprus	735	20	17	0	Pending	0
Andorra	694	21	34	1	Community transmission	0
Latvia	675	9	5	0	Pending	0
Albania	518	24	26	1	Clusters of cases	0
Kyrgyzstan	489	23	5	0	Pending	0
San Marino	426	33	38	2	Community transmission	0
Malta	412	13	3	0	Pending	0
Georgia	370	34	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
Montenegro	303	15	4	0	Clusters of cases	0
Monaco	93	0	1	1	Sporadic cases	3
Liechtenstein	81	0	1	0	Pending	2
Holy See	8	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	8
<b>Territories**</b>						
Kosovo <sup>[1]</sup>	449	52	11	2	Community transmission	0
Isle of Man	258	4	4	2	Pending	0
Guernsey	228	5	8	1	Pending	0
Jersey	219	2	7	1	Pending	0
Faroe Islands	184	0	0	0	Pending	9

Gibraltar	131	2	0	0	Pending	0
Greenland	11	0	0	0	Pending	11
<b>South-East Asia Region</b>						
India	13387	1007	437	23	Clusters of cases	0
Indonesia	5516	380	496	27	Community transmission	0
Thailand	2700	28	47	1	Pending	0
Bangladesh	1572	341	60	10	Pending	0
Sri Lanka	238	0	7	0	Clusters of cases	1
Myanmar	85	0	4	0	Clusters of cases	1
Maldives	23	2	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Timor-Leste	18	12	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Nepal	16	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	3
Bhutan	5	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	14
<b>Eastern Mediterranean Region</b>						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	77995	1606	4869	92	Community transmission	0
Pakistan	7025	520	135	11	Clusters of cases	0
Saudi Arabia	6380	518	83	4	Clusters of cases	0
United Arab Emirates	5825	460	35	2	Pending	0
Qatar	4103	392	7	0	Pending	0
Egypt	2673	168	196	13	Clusters of cases	0
Morocco	2283	259	130	3	Clusters of cases	0
Bahrain	1700	23	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Kuwait	1524	119	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
Iraq	1434	19	80	1	Clusters of cases	0
Oman	1069	50	5	1	Clusters of cases	0
Afghanistan	845	51	30	1	Clusters of cases	0
Tunisia	822	42	37	2	Community transmission	0
Lebanon	663	5	21	0	Clusters of cases	0
Djibouti	591	156	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
Jordan	402	1	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Somalia	80	0	5	0	Sporadic cases	1
Libya	49	1	1	0	Clusters of cases	0
Syrian Arab Republic	33	0	2	0	Community transmission	1
Sudan	32	0	5	0	Sporadic cases	2
Yemen	1	0	0	0	Pending	6
<b>Territories**</b>						
occupied Palestinian territory	295	2	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
<b>Region of the Americas</b>						
United States of America	632781	28711	28221	2350	Community transmission	0
Canada	28884	1344	1048	94	Community transmission	0
Brazil	28320	3058	1736	204	Community transmission	0
Peru	11475	1172	254	24	Community transmission	0

Chile	8807	534	105	11	Community transmission	0
Ecuador	8225	367	403	15	Community transmission	0
Mexico	5847	448	449	43	Community transmission	0
Dominican Republic	3755	141	196	7	Community transmission	0
Panama	3751	177	103	8	Community transmission	0
Colombia	3105	126	131	4	Community transmission	0
Argentina	2598	121	115	7	Community transmission	0
Cuba	862	48	27	3	Clusters of cases	0
Costa Rica	626	8	4	1	Clusters of cases	0
Uruguay	493	1	9	1	Clusters of cases	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	441	44	29	1	Clusters of cases	0
Honduras	426	7	35	4	Clusters of cases	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	197	4	9	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guatemala	196	16	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Paraguay	174	13	8	0	Community transmission	0
El Salvador	164	5	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Jamaica	125	20	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Trinidad and Tobago	114	0	8	0	Sporadic cases	1
Barbados	75	2	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guyana	55	7	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Bahamas	53	4	8	0	Clusters of cases	0
Haiti	41	0	3	0	Clusters of cases	1
Antigua and Barbuda	23	0	2	0	Clusters of cases	3
Belize	18	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	2
Dominica	16	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	6
Saint Lucia	15	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	5
Grenada	14	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	5
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	12	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	6
Suriname	10	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	13
Nicaragua	9	0	1	0	Pending	4
Territories**						
Puerto Rico	1043	69	56	5	Clusters of cases	0
Martinique	159	1	8	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guadeloupe	145	0	8	0	Clusters of cases	2
French Guiana	96	1	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Aruba	95	2	2	1	Clusters of cases	0
Bermuda	81	24	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Cayman Islands	60	6	1	0	Clusters of cases	0
Sint Maarten	57	4	9	0	Clusters of cases	0

United States Virgin Islands	51	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	6
Saint Martin	35	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	2
Curaçao	14	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	8
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	11	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	2
Montserrat	11	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	3
Turks and Caicos Islands	11	1	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Saint Barthélemy	6	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	17
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	4	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Anguilla	3	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	13
British Virgin Islands	3	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	16
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	9
African Region						
South Africa	2605	99	48	14	Community transmission	0
Algeria	2268	108	348	12	Community transmission	0
Cameroon	855	0	17	0	Clusters of cases	2
Côte d'Ivoire	688	34	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Ghana	641	5	8	0	Clusters of cases	0
Niger	609	25	15	1	Clusters of cases	0
Burkina Faso	543	15	32	4	Clusters of cases	0
Guinea	438	34	1	0	Clusters of cases	0
Nigeria	373	0	11	0	Clusters of cases	1
Senegal	335	21	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mauritius	324	0	9	0	Clusters of cases	4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	287	20	23	1	Clusters of cases	0
Kenya	234	9	11	1	Clusters of cases	0
Mali	171	27	13	0	Sporadic cases	0
Rwanda	138	2	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Congo	117	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	1
Madagascar	117	7	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Gabon	95	8	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
United Republic of Tanzania	94	6	4	0	Sporadic cases	0
Ethiopia	92	7	3	0	Sporadic cases	0
Togo	81	4	5	2	Sporadic cases	0
Liberia	73	14	6	0	Sporadic cases	0
Cabo Verde	55	45	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Uganda	55	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Equatorial Guinea	51	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Zambia	48	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	1
Guinea-Bissau	46	3	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Benin	37	2	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Eritrea	35	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Mozambique	29	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0

Chad	27	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Zimbabwe	23	0	3	0	Sporadic cases	1
Angola	19	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	8
Eswatini	16	0	1	1	Sporadic cases	1
Malawi	16	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	3
Namibia	16	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	11
Botswana	15	2	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Sierra Leone	15	2	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Central African Republic	12	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Seychelles	11	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	10
Gambia	9	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	5
Mauritania	7	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	6
Burundi	5	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	0	0	0	Pending	10
South Sudan	4	0	0	0	Pending	5
<b>Territories**</b>						
Réunion	394	4	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mayotte	233	12	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
<b>Subtotal for all Regions</b>	<b>2073817</b>	<b>82967</b>	<b>139365</b>	<b>8492</b>		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	13	1	Not Applicable <sup>††</sup>	32
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2074529</b>	<b>82967</b>	<b>139378</b>	<b>8493</b>		

\* 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 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

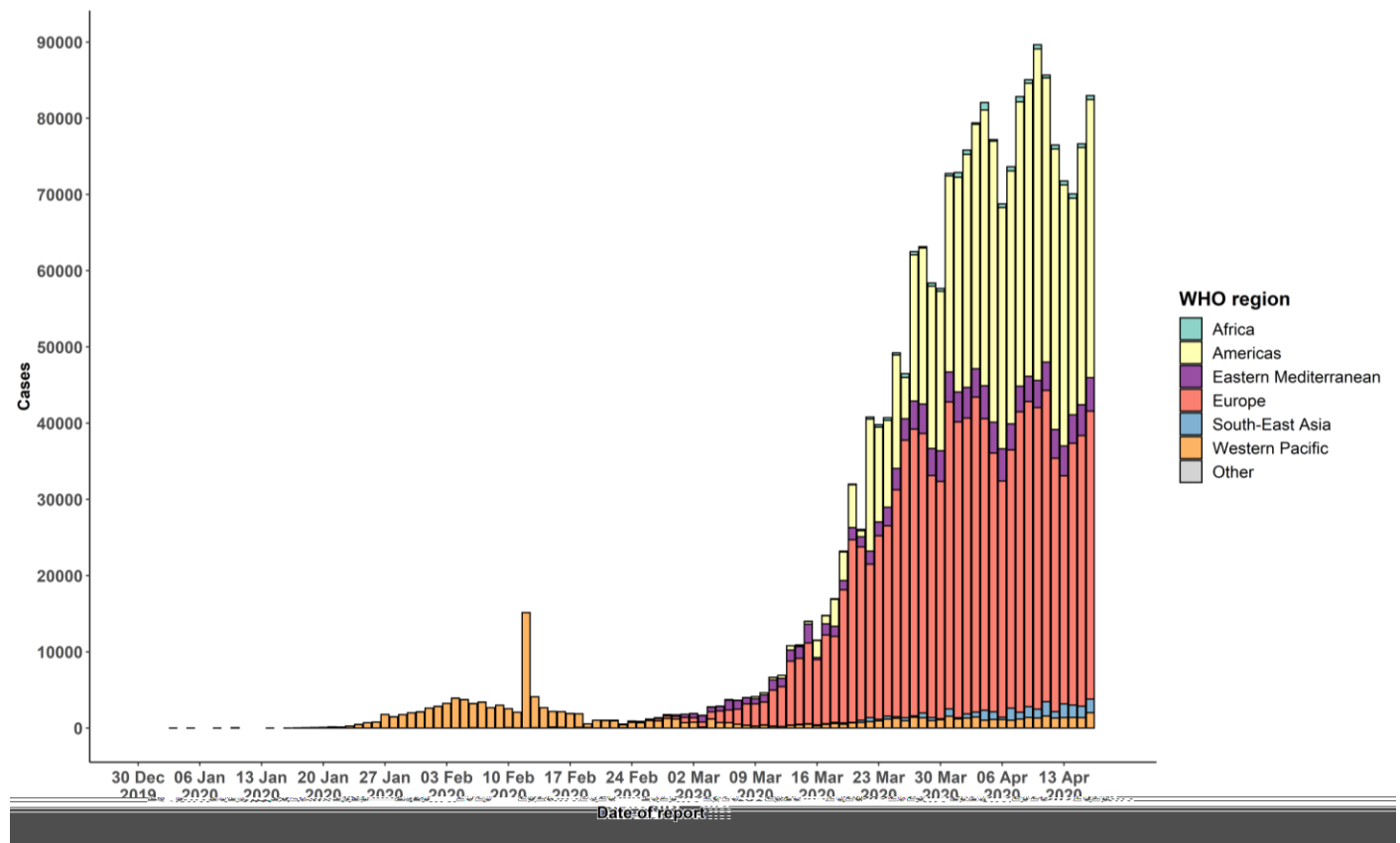
[1] All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

†† 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 17 April 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 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 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:

- Introduction to Go.Data – Field data collection, chains of transmission and contact follow-up. The Go.Data tool is available globally to WHO staff, member states and partners to support outbreak investigation, focusing on field data collection, contact tracing and visualisation of chains of transmission.
- 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 equipment<sup>1</sup>; 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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)