

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 63

Data as reported by national authorities by 10:00 CET 23 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Three new countries/territories/areas from the African Region [1], Region of the Americas [1], and Eastern Mediterranean Region [1], have reported cases of COVID-19.
- The number of COVID-19 cases surpassed 300,000 globally.
- Data reported are based on information received from national authorities by 10:00 AM CET, 23 March 2020.
- Diagnostic testing for COVID-19 is critical to tracking the virus, understanding epidemiology, informing case management, and to suppressing transmission. WHO has updated the [Laboratory Testing Strategy document](#) according to the 4Cs transmission scenarios. All technical guidance can be found [here](#).
- WHO Regional Office for Europe has published interim guidance on how to deal with COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention, available [here](#).
- World Water Day 2020, celebrated on 22 March, highlighted the essential role of hand washing in hygiene to protect you and those around you. WHO Regional Office for Europe provides more information [here](#).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

332 930 confirmed (40 788)
14 510 deaths (1727)

Western Pacific Region

95 637 confirmed (850)
3473 deaths (35)

171 424

8743 deaths (1318)

1776 confirmed (519)
58 deaths (13)

25 375 confirmed (1706)
1741 deaths (145)

Region of the Americas

37 016 confirmed (17 331)
465 deaths (213)

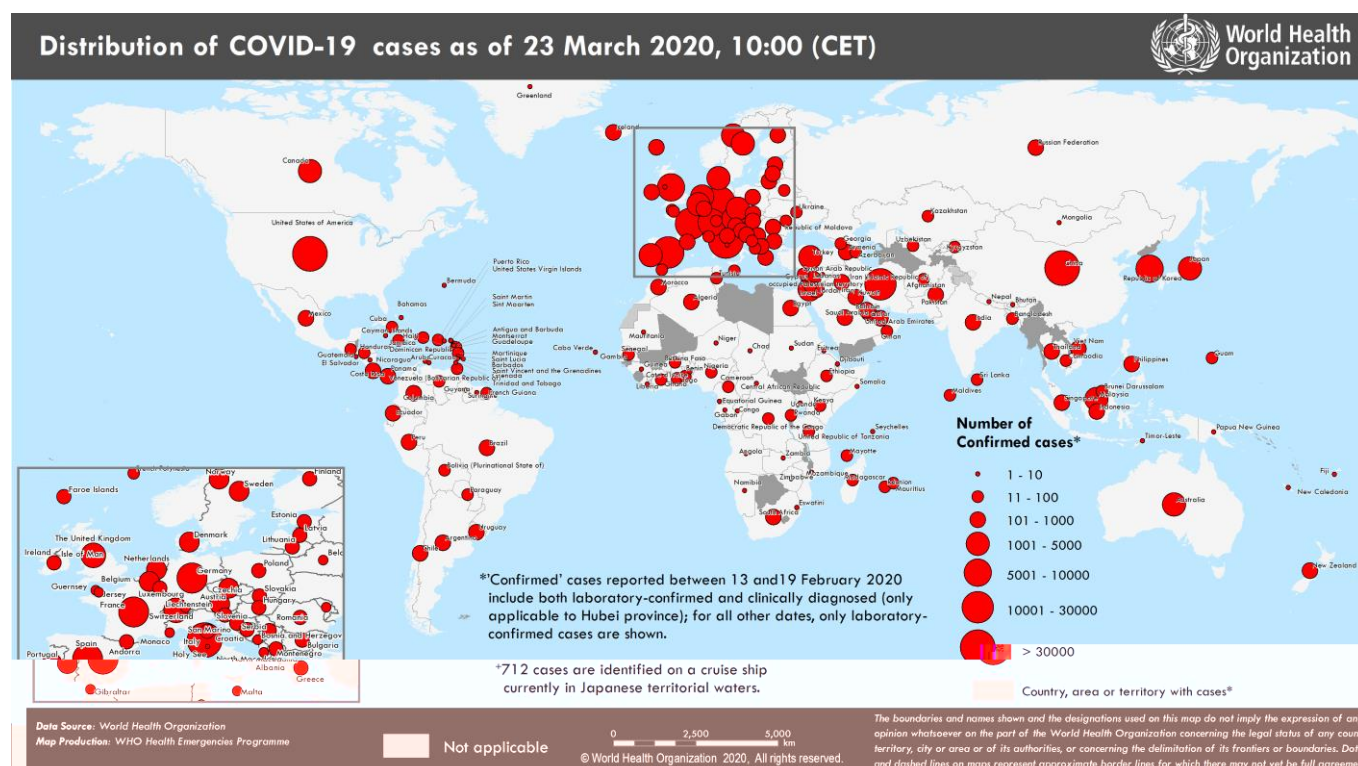
African Region

990 confirmed (251)
23 deaths (3)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 23 March 2020



SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 23 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	81601	103	3276	9	Local transmission	0
Republic of Korea	8961	64	111	7	Local transmission	0
Australia	1396	315	7	0	Local transmission	0
Malaysia	1306	123	10	7	Local transmission	0
Japan	1089	43	41	5	Local transmission	0
Singapore	455	23	2	0	Local transmission	0
Philippines	380	73	25	6	Local transmission	0
Viet Nam	113	19	0	0	Local transmission	0
New Zealand	102	36	0	0	Local transmission	0
Brunei Darussalam	88	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Cambodia	84	31	0	0	Local transmission	0
Mongolia	10	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Fiji	2	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Territories**						
Guam	27	12	1	1	Local transmission	0
French Polynesia	17	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
New Caledonia	5	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
European Region ^						
Italy	59138	5560	5476	649	Local transmission	0
Spain	28572	3646	1720	394	Local transmission	0
Germany	24774	3311	94	27	Local transmission	0
France	15821	1525	674	112	Local transmission	0
Switzerland	6971	894	60	4	Local transmission	0
The United Kingdom	5687	669	281	48	Local transmission	0
Netherlands	4204	573	179	43	Local transmission	0
Austria	3631	607	16	8	Local transmission	0
Belgium	3401	586	75	8	Local transmission	0
Norway	2132	206	7	0	Local transmission	0
Sweden	1906	160	21	1	Local transmission	0
Portugal	1600	320	14	2	Local transmission	0
Denmark	1395	69	13	0	Local transmission	0
Turkey	1236	289	30	9	Local transmission	0
Czechia	1165	170	1	1	Local transmission	0
Israel	1071	188	1	0	Local transmission	0
Ireland	906	121	4	1	Local transmission	0
Luxembourg	798	128	8	0	Local transmission	0
Poland	634	98	7	2	Local transmission	0
Finland	626	105	1	0	Local transmission	0
Greece	624	94	15	2	Local transmission	0
Iceland	568	95	1	0	Local transmission	0
Russian Federation	438	132	0	0	Local transmission	0
Romania	433	66	2	2	Local transmission	0
Slovenia	414	31	1	0	Local transmission	0
Estonia	326	20	0	0	Local transmission	0
Croatia	235	29	1	0	Local transmission	0

Serbia	188	39	0	0	Local transmission	0
Armenia	190	30	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bulgaria	185	22	3	0	Local transmission	0
Slovakia	185	7	0	0	Local transmission	0
Hungary	167	36	7	3	Local transmission	0
San Marino	151	0	20	0	Local transmission	2
Lithuania	143	38	1	0	Local transmission	0
Latvia	139	15	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	125	33	1	0	Local transmission	0
North Macedonia	114	29	1	1	Local transmission	0
Andorra	113	25	0	0	Local transmission	0
Cyprus	95	11	0	0	Local transmission	0
Republic of Moldova	94	14	1	0	Local transmission	0
Malta	90	17	0	0	Local transmission	0
Albania	89	13	2	0	Local transmission	0
Belarus	76	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Azerbaijan	65	12	1	0	Local transmission	0
Kazakhstan	60	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Georgia	54	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Ukraine	47	0	3	0	Local transmission	1
Liechtenstein	46	10	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Uzbekistan	46	13	0	0	Local transmission	0
Monaco	23	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Montenegro	21	7	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Kyrgyzstan	14	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Holy See	1	0	0	0	Under investigation	16
Territories**						
Faroe Islands	115	23	0	0	Local transmission	0
Kosovo ^[1]	31	7	1	1	Local transmission	0
Guernsey	17	16	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Gibraltar	15	5	0	0	Under investigation	0
Jersey	15	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Greenland	2	0	0	0	Under investigation	4
Isle of Man	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
South-East Asia Region						
Thailand	721	310	1	0	Local transmission	0
Indonesia	514	64	48	10	Local transmission	0
India	415	132	7	3	Local transmission	0
Sri Lanka	82	10	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bangladesh	27	3	2	0	Local transmission	0
Maldives	13	0	0	0	Local transmission	7
Bhutan	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Nepal	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	59
Timor-Leste	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	21638	1028	1685	129	Local transmission	0
Pakistan	784	289	5	2	Local transmission	0
Saudi Arabia	511	119	0	0	Local transmission	0
Qatar	494	24	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bahrain	337	31	2	1	Local transmission	0
Egypt	327	42	14	6	Local transmission	0
Lebanon	248	42	4	0	Local transmission	0

Iraq	233	19	20	3	Local transmission	0
Kuwait	189	13	0	0	Local transmission	0
United Arab Emirates	153	0	2	0	Local transmission	1
Morocco	115	29	4	1	Local transmission	0
Jordan	112	28	0	0	Local transmission	0
Tunisia	75	15	3	2	Local transmission	0
Oman	55	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
Afghanistan	40	16	1	1	Imported cases only	0
Sudan	2	0	1	0	Imported cases only	1
Djibouti	1	0	0	0	Under investigation	5
Somalia	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	6
Syrian Arab Republic	1	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian territory	59	7	0	0	Local transmission	0
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	31573	16354	402	201	Local transmission	0
Canada	1384	336	19	6	Local transmission	0
Brazil	904	0	11	0	Local transmission	1
Chile	632	198	1	0	Local transmission	0
Ecuador	532	26	7	0	Local transmission	0
Peru	318	0	2	0	Local transmission	1
Mexico	251	87	2	1	Local transmission	0
Panama	245	108	3	2	Local transmission	0
Argentina	225	67	4	1	Local transmission	0
Colombia	196	0	2	2	Local transmission	1
Uruguay	135	41	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Costa Rica	117	4	2	0	Local transmission	0
Dominican Republic	72	0	2	0	Local transmission	2
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	70	34	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Trinidad and Tobago	50	41	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Honduras	26	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	24	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Paraguay	22	4	1	0	Local transmission	0
Jamaica	19	3	1	0	Local transmission	0
Guatemala	18	6	1	0	Imported cases only	0
Cuba	16	0	1	0	Imported cases only	2
Barbados	5	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Guyana	5	0	1	0	Local transmission	4
Bahamas	4	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Haiti	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Nicaragua	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Saint Lucia	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	7
Suriname	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	9
El Salvador	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Grenada	1	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	10
Territories**						
Guadeloupe	56	5	0	0	Imported cases only	0

Martinique	32	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Puerto Rico	23	2	1	0	Imported cases only	0
French Guiana	18	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
Aruba	8	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
United States Virgin Islands	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1

Territories**						
Réunion	64	17	0	0	Under investigation	0
Mayotte	14	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Subtotal for all regions	332218	40788	14503	1727		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	7	0	Local transmission	7
Grand total	332930	40788	14510	1727		

*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

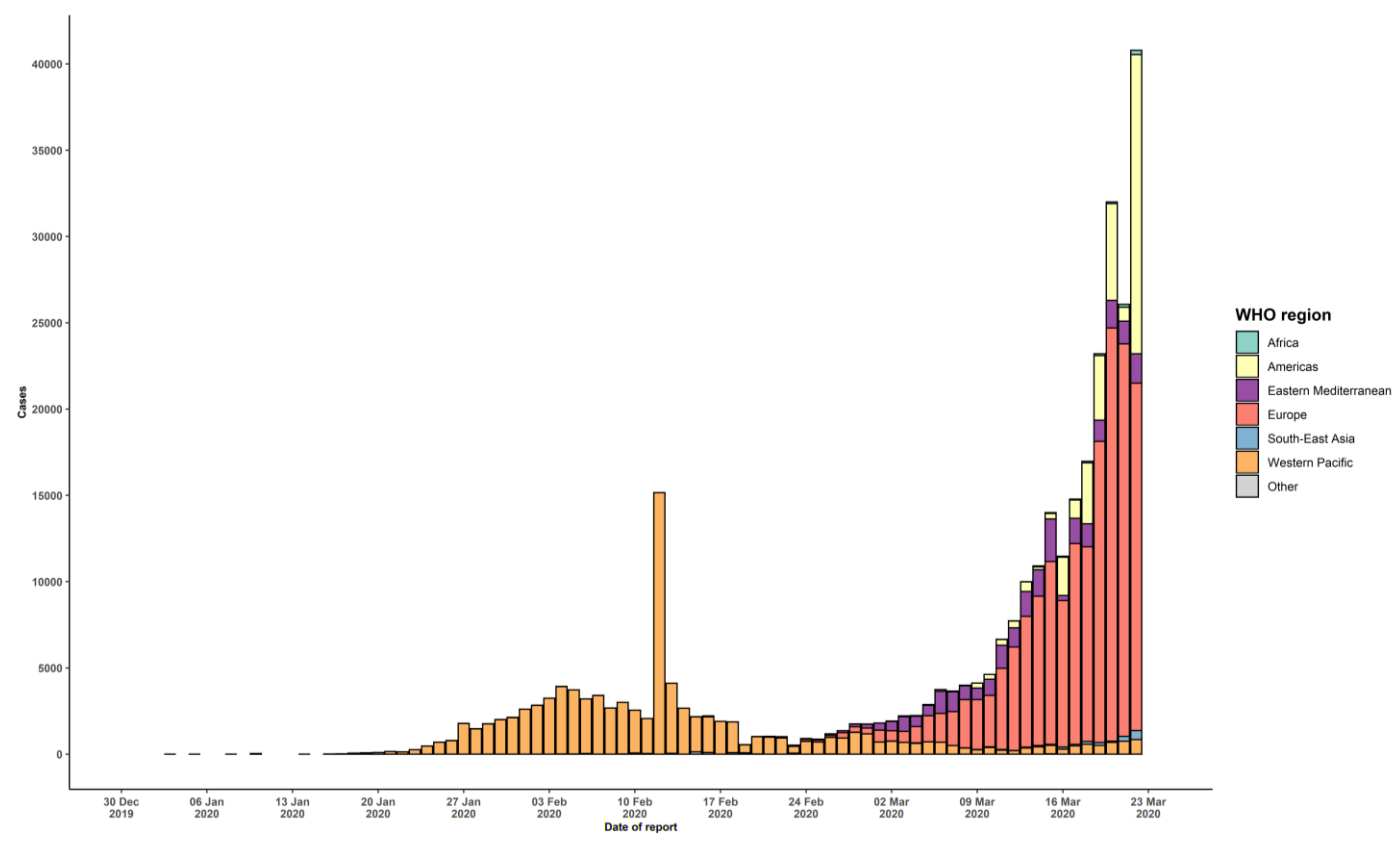
^ Data for the European Region is obtained from the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC)

[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 23 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](#). 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, Persian, Portuguese, Serbian, and Turkish); Clinical Care for Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (available in English, French, Russian, and Vietnamese); Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases - ePROTECT (available in English, French, Russian, 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)