

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 92

Data as received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, 21 April 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- No new country/territory/area reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in his [media briefing](#) yesterday, thanked health ministers from the G20 countries for their support, as well as the support received from the G77 (that comprises 135 countries) and The Non-Aligned Movement (that comprises over 130 countries). He reiterated that WHO is committed to supporting all countries to save lives.
- WHO and Global Citizen's "One World, Together at Home" concert in collaboration with Lady Gaga has been a great success and show of global friendship and solidarity. It has also raised US\$55 million for WHO's [Solidarity Response Fund](#), which will be used to support countries to prevent, detect, and respond to the pandemic.
- As of 21 April, over 100 countries have joined the [Solidarity Trial](#) to evaluate therapeutics for COVID-19. The trial will compare four treatment options against local standard of care, to assess their relative effectiveness against COVID-19.
- WHO has published 'International Guidelines for Certification and Classification (Coding) of COVID-19 as Cause of Death', available [here](#).
- During a [virtual meeting](#) convened by WHO, national regulatory authorities and national ethics committees across Africa agreed to combine their expertise to expedite clinical trial reviews and approvals.
- WHO continues to secure vital supply chains, set-up logistical hubs, and deliver critical supplies. For more see the 'Subject in Focus' below.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Globally

2 397 216 confirmed (83 006)

162 956 deaths (5109)

European Region

1 187 184 confirmed (38 143)

106 342 deaths (2756)

Region of the Americas

893 119 confirmed (34 869)

42 686 deaths (2071)

Western Pacific Region

134 506 confirmed (2068)

5685 deaths (37)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

134 470 confirmed (5037)

6185 deaths (137)

South-East Asia Region

31 670 confirmed (2094)

1341 deaths (66)

African Region

15 555 confirmed (795)

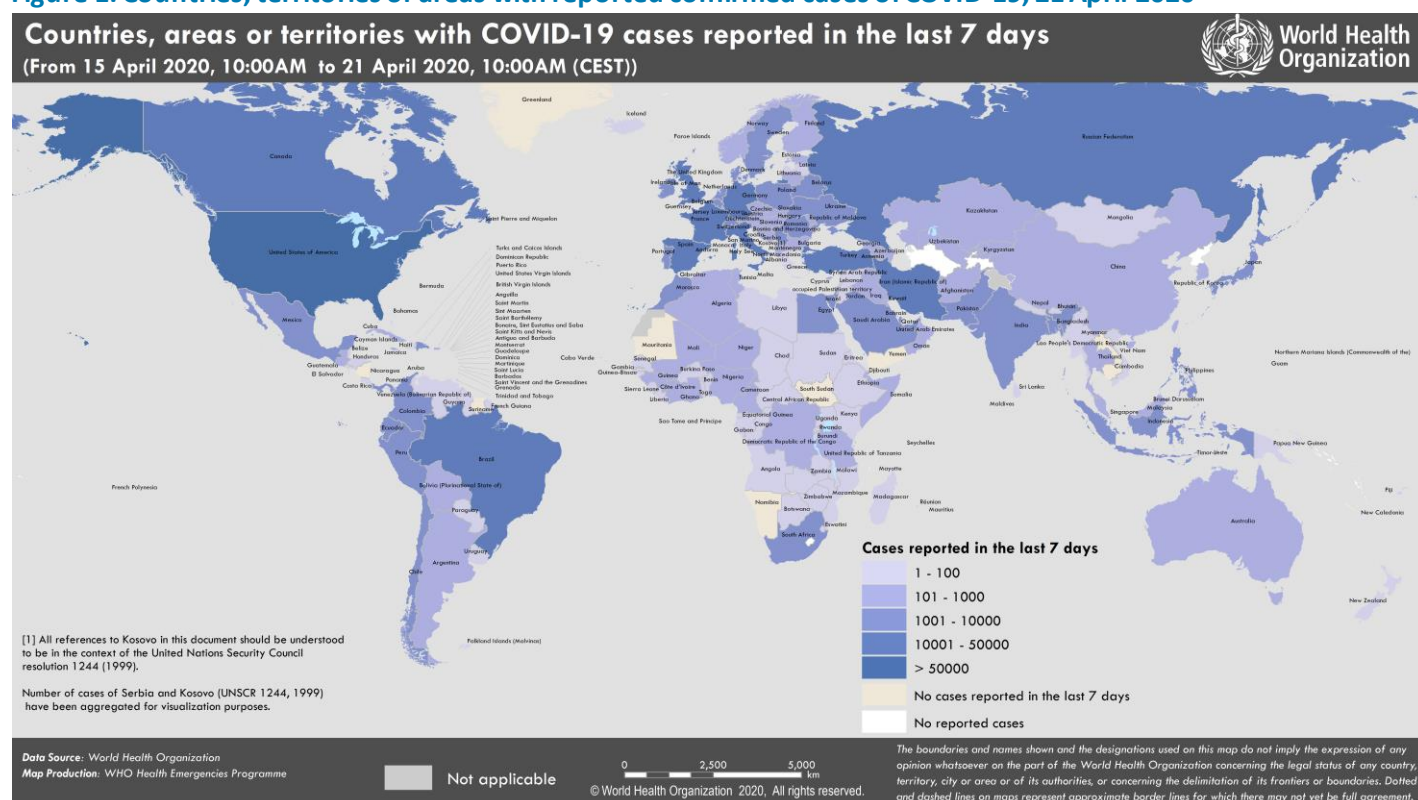
704 deaths (42)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level

Very High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 21 April 2020



SUBJECT IN FOCUS: WHO Operations Support and Logistics update

WHO leads UN collaboration to secure vital supplies for COVID-19 response

The COVID-19 Supply Chain System (CSCS), managed by the Supply Chain Task Force, is a collaborative effort across UN and non-UN actors. WHO leads the prioritisation and allocation of medical supplies and equipment, while the World Food Programme (WFP) acts as logistics lead to direct shipment and distribution of goods to governments or UN country offices.

The CSCS will identify, certify, source, allocate, direct and deliver essential medical supplies and equipment to where they are needed most during this acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will have eight global hubs and will deploy sixteen 747s and medium-sized cargo aircraft, as well as passenger planes for monthly shipments of personal protective equipment (PPE), respirators, lab equipment, oxygen, and medical and technical personnel.

New humanitarian air hub in Ethiopia delivers WHO cargo of critical supplies to 32 countries across Africa

On 14 April, the Government of Ethiopia and WFP opened a new hub at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport from which COVID-19 supplies will be transported by air to destinations across Africa. The 'Addis Ababa Humanitarian Air Hub' is part of an overall UN initiative to scale up procurement and distribution of protective equipment and medical supplies for the COVID-19 response.

The first 'Solidarity Flight' left Addis Ababa on 14 April to deliver critical supplies to 32 countries in Africa to help contain the spread of COVID-19. The airlift represents the largest single shipment of medical supplies from WHO since the start of the pandemic. The WHO cargo was transported by the WFP and included one million face masks and other personal protective equipment, along with thermometers and laboratory supplies to support case detection and testing activities. The cargo also included a large quantity of medical supplies donated by the Jack Ma Foundation.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention is providing technical support and coordination for the distribution of the supplies.

Securing commitments for millions of COVID-19 tests, masks, goggles and other PPE

WHO has established three buyers consortia – a PPE Consortium, a Diagnostics Consortium, and a Clinical Care Consortium – to address global market shortages in critical supplies required for the global COVID-19 response. Each consortium is working to ensure that some critical supplies are reserved to meet the requests of countries most in need, especially low- to medium income countries with severely limited resources.

The Clinton Health Access Initiative has helped the Diagnostics Consortium negotiate with manufacturers to secure commitments for 10 million tests over the next 16 weeks.

Market demand for clinical care equipment is estimated to be 20 times the historical demand, with oxygen concentrators unlikely to be available before September at the earliest. WHO continues to work with private sector partners on procurement efforts to secure supplies of oxygen, consumables and accessories for oxygen therapy.

WHO is also continuing to work to secure higher volumes of masks, gloves and other vital equipment to protect healthcare workers and vulnerable populations.

SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 21 April 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	84250	13	4642	0	Clusters of cases	0
Japan	11118	367	186	15	Clusters of cases	0
Republic of Korea	10683	9	237	1	Clusters of cases	0
Singapore	8014	1426	11	0	Clusters of cases	0
Australia	6625	13	71	1	Clusters of cases	0
Philippines	6459	200	428	19	Clusters of cases	0
Malaysia	5424	35	89	0	Clusters of cases	0
New Zealand	1107	2	13	1	Clusters of cases	0
Viet Nam	268	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	4
Brunei Darussalam	138	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Cambodia	122	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	9
Mongolia	33	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	8
Fiji	18	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Papua New Guinea	7	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
Territories**						
Guam	133	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	9
French Polynesia	56	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
New Caledonia	18	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	18
Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of the)	14	0	2	0	Pending	3
European Region						
Spain	200210	4266	20852	399	Pending	0
Italy	181228	2256	24114	454	Pending	0
Germany	143457	1785	4598	194	Pending	0
The United Kingdom	124747	4676	16509	449	Pending	0
France	113513	2050	20233	544	Pending	0
Turkey	90980	4674	2140	123	Community transmission	0
Russian Federation	52763	9910	456	95	Clusters of cases	0
Belgium	39983	1487	5828	145	Pending	0
Netherlands	33405	750	3751	67	Pending	0
Switzerland	27862	204	1141	7	Community transmission	0
Portugal	20863	657	735	21	Pending	0
Ireland	15652	401	687	77	Pending	0
Austria	14783	73	470	18	Pending	0

Sweden	14777	392	1580	40	Pending	0
Israel	13883	521	181	10	Pending	0
Poland	9593	306	380	20	Pending	0
Romania	8936	190	451	17	Pending	0
Denmark	7515	131	364	9	Pending	0
Norway	7113	45	154	0	Pending	0
Czechia	6914	127	196	8	Pending	0
Serbia	6630	312	125	3	Pending	0
Belarus	6264	1485	51	4	Clusters of cases	0
Ukraine	6125	415	161	10	Community transmission	0
Finland	3868	85	98	4	Pending	0
Luxembourg	3558	8	75	2	Pending	0
Republic of Moldova	2548	76	70	3	Pending	0
Greece	2245	10	116	6	Pending	0
Hungary	2098	114	213	14	Pending	0
Croatia	1881	10	47	0	Pending	0
Kazakhstan	1852	306	19	2	Pending	0
Iceland	1773	2	10	1	Pending	0
Uzbekistan	1657	92	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Estonia	1535	7	40	0	Pending	0
Azerbaijan	1436	38	19	0	Clusters of cases	0
Lithuania	1350	24	37	1	Pending	0
Armenia	1339	48	22	2	Clusters of cases	0
Slovenia	1335	5	74	0	Pending	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1300	14	49	3	Community transmission	0
North Macedonia	1225	18	54	3	Clusters of cases	0
Slovakia	1173	12	13	1	Pending	0
Bulgaria	929	14	43	0	Pending	0
Cyprus	772	5	17	0	Pending	0
Latvia	739	12	5	0	Pending	0
Andorra	718	1	36	0	Community transmission	0
Albania	609	47	26	0	Clusters of cases	0
Kyrgyzstan	590	22	7	0	Pending	0
San Marino	462	1	39	0	Community transmission	0
Malta	431	4	3	0	Pending	0
Georgia	408	9	4	0	Clusters of cases	0
Montenegro	312	4	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Liechtenstein	82	0	1	0	Pending	2
Monaco	68	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	7
Holy See	9	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Territories**						
Kosovo ^[1]	572	37	12	0	Community transmission	0
Isle of Man	297	0	4	0	Pending	1
Jersey	249	4	12	0	Pending	0
Guernsey	239	0	9	0	Pending	1

Faroe Islands	185	0	0	0	Pending	1
Gibraltar	133	0	0	0	Pending	3
Greenland	11	0	0	0	Pending	15
South-East Asia Region						
India	18601	1336	590	47	Clusters of cases	0
Indonesia	6760	185	590	8	Community transmission	0
Bangladesh	2948	492	101	10	Pending	0
Thailand	2811	19	48	1	Pending	0
Sri Lanka	304	33	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Myanmar	119	8	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Maldives	67	16	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Nepal	31	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Timor-Leste	23	4	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Bhutan	6	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	83505	1294	5209	91	Community transmission	0
Saudi Arabia	10484	1122	103	6	Clusters of cases	0
Pakistan	9216	798	192	16	Clusters of cases	0
United Arab Emirates	7265	484	43	2	Pending	0
Qatar	6015	567	9	1	Pending	0
Egypt	3333	189	250	11	Clusters of cases	0
Morocco	3046	191	143	2	Clusters of cases	0
Kuwait	1995	80	9	2	Clusters of cases	0
Bahrain	1907	26	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Iraq	1574	35	82	0	Clusters of cases	0
Oman	1508	98	8	1	Clusters of cases	0
Afghanistan	1026	30	36	3	Clusters of cases	0
Tunisia	884	18	38	1	Community transmission	0
Djibouti	846	0	2	0	Clusters of cases	1
Lebanon	677	4	21	0	Clusters of cases	0
Jordan	425	8	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Somalia	237	73	8	1	Sporadic cases	0
Sudan	107	15	12	0	Sporadic cases	0
Libya	51	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	1
Syrian Arab Republic	39	0	3	0	Community transmission	1
Yemen	1	0	0	0	Pending	10
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian territory	329	5	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	751273	27668	35884	1681	Community transmission	0
Brazil	38654	2055	2462	115	Community transmission	0
Canada	35383	1474	1611	105	Community transmission	0

Peru	15628	1208	400	52	Community transmission	0
Chile	10507	0	139	6	Community transmission	1
Ecuador	10128	660	507	33	Community transmission	0
Mexico	8261	764	686	36	Community transmission	0
Dominican Republic	4964	284	235	9	Community transmission	0
Panama	4467	194	126	6	Community transmission	0
Colombia	3792	171	179	13	Community transmission	0
Argentina	2960	121	136	4	Community transmission	0
Cuba	1087	52	36	2	Clusters of cases	0
Costa Rica	660	5	5	1	Clusters of cases	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	564	44	33	1	Clusters of cases	0
Uruguay	528	11	10	1	Clusters of cases	0
Honduras	477	5	46	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guatemala	289	32	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	256	28	9	0	Clusters of cases	0
El Salvador	218	17	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Paraguay	208	2	8	0	Community transmission	0
Jamaica	196	23	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Trinidad and Tobago	114	0	8	0	Sporadic cases	5
Barbados	75	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	4
Guyana	65	2	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Bahamas	60	2	9	0	Clusters of cases	0
Haiti	47	3	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
Antigua and Barbuda	23	0	3	0	Clusters of cases	7
Belize	18	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	6
Dominica	16	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	10
Saint Kitts and Nevis	15	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Saint Lucia	15	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	9
Grenada	13	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	9
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	12	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	10
Suriname	10	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	17
Nicaragua	9	0	2	1	Pending	8
Territories**						
Puerto Rico	1252	39	63	1	Clusters of cases	0
Martinique	163	0	14	2	Clusters of cases	2
Guadeloupe	148	0	11	0	Clusters of cases	1
Aruba	97	0	2	0	Clusters of cases	1
French Guiana	97	1	1	1	Clusters of cases	0
Bermuda	86	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	1

Sint Maarten	67	3	10	1	Clusters of cases	0
Cayman Islands	61	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	3
United States Virgin Islands	53	0	3	0	Clusters of cases	2
Saint Martin	37	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	2
Curaçao	14	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	12
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	11	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	6
Montserrat	11	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	7
Turks and Caicos Islands	11	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	4
Saint Barthélemy	6	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	21
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	5	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	3
British Virgin Islands	4	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Anguilla	3	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	17
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	13
African Region						
South Africa	3300	142	58	4	Community transmission	0
Algeria	2718	89	384	9	Community transmission	0
Cameroon	1163	147	42	21	Clusters of cases	0
Ghana	1042	0	9	0	Clusters of cases	1
Côte d'Ivoire	879	32	10	1	Clusters of cases	0
Niger	655	7	20	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guinea	622	145	5	2	Community transmission	0
Burkina Faso	576	11	36	0	Community transmission	0
Nigeria	541	0	19	0	Community transmission	1
Senegal	377	10	5	2	Clusters of cases	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	350	18	25	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mauritius	328	0	9	0	Community transmission	1
Kenya	281	11	14	0	Clusters of cases	0
United Republic of Tanzania	255	84	10	3	Clusters of cases	0
Mali	246	22	14	0	Clusters of cases	0
Congo	160	17	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Rwanda	147	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	1
Madagascar	121	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	1
Gabon	120	11	1	0	Clusters of cases	0
Ethiopia	111	3	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
Liberia	99	8	8	0	Clusters of cases	0
Togo	84	1	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Equatorial Guinea	79	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	2
Zambia	65	4	3	0	Sporadic cases	0
Cabo Verde	55	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	4

Uganda	55	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	5
Benin	54	17	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Guinea-Bissau	50	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	3
Sierra Leone	43	8	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Eritrea	39	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Mozambique	35	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Chad	33	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	3
Zimbabwe	25	0	3	0	Sporadic cases	2
Angola	24	5	2	0	Sporadic cases	0
Eswatini	24	2	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Botswana	20	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Malawi	17	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	3
Namibia	16	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	15
Central African Republic	12	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
Seychelles	11	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	14
Gambia	10	1	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Mauritania	7	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	10
Burundi	6	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	14
South Sudan	4	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	9
Territories**						
Réunion	408	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	1
Mayotte	284	0	4	0	Clusters of cases	1
Subtotal for all Regions	2 396504	83006	162943	5109		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	13	0	Not Applicable ^{††}	36
Grand total	2 397216	83006	162956	5109		

* 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

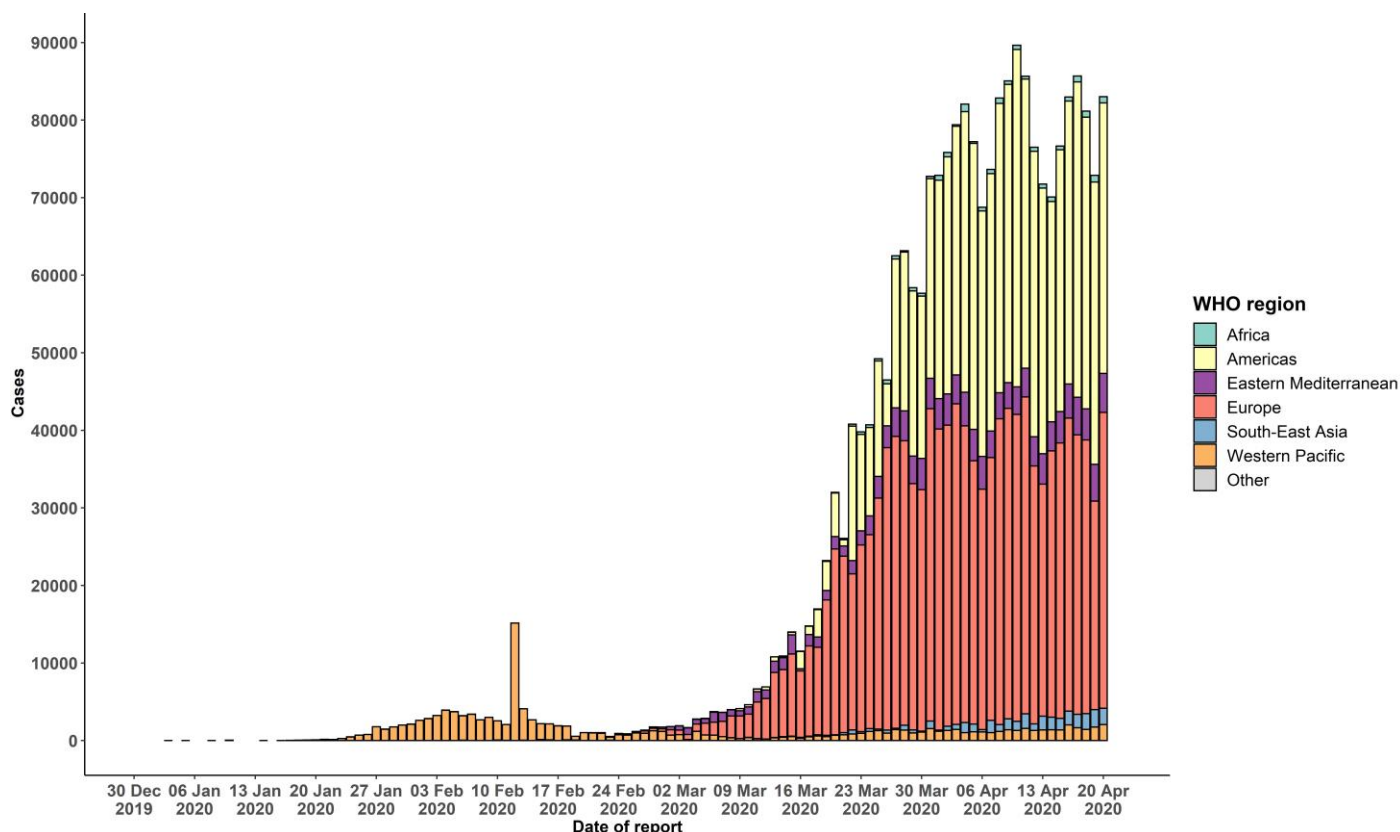
[1] All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

†† 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 21 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 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)