

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 68

Data as reported by national authorities by 10:00 CET 28 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- No new countries/territories/areas reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- The WHO Director-General highlighted in his media briefing yesterday that the chronic global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) is one of the most urgent threats to our collective ability to save lives. To date, WHO has shipped almost 2 million individual items of PPE to 74 countries and is preparing to send a similar amount to a further 60 countries. The Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing can be found [here](#).
- Today, WHO published the first edition of the practical manual to set up and manage a severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) treatment centre and a SARI screening facility in health-care facilities. The document has been developed to meet the operational needs emerging with the COVID-19 pandemic. For more details, please see the document [here](#).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

571 659 confirmed (62 495)
26 493 deaths (3158)

Western Pacific Region

101 443 confirmed (1425)
3592 deaths (25)

European Region

324 343 confirmed (37 646)
18 740 deaths (2635)

South-East Asia Region

3085 confirmed (153)
114 deaths (09)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

38 931 confirmed (3682)
2508 deaths (172)

Region of the Americas

100 314 confirmed (19 177)
1485 deaths (309)

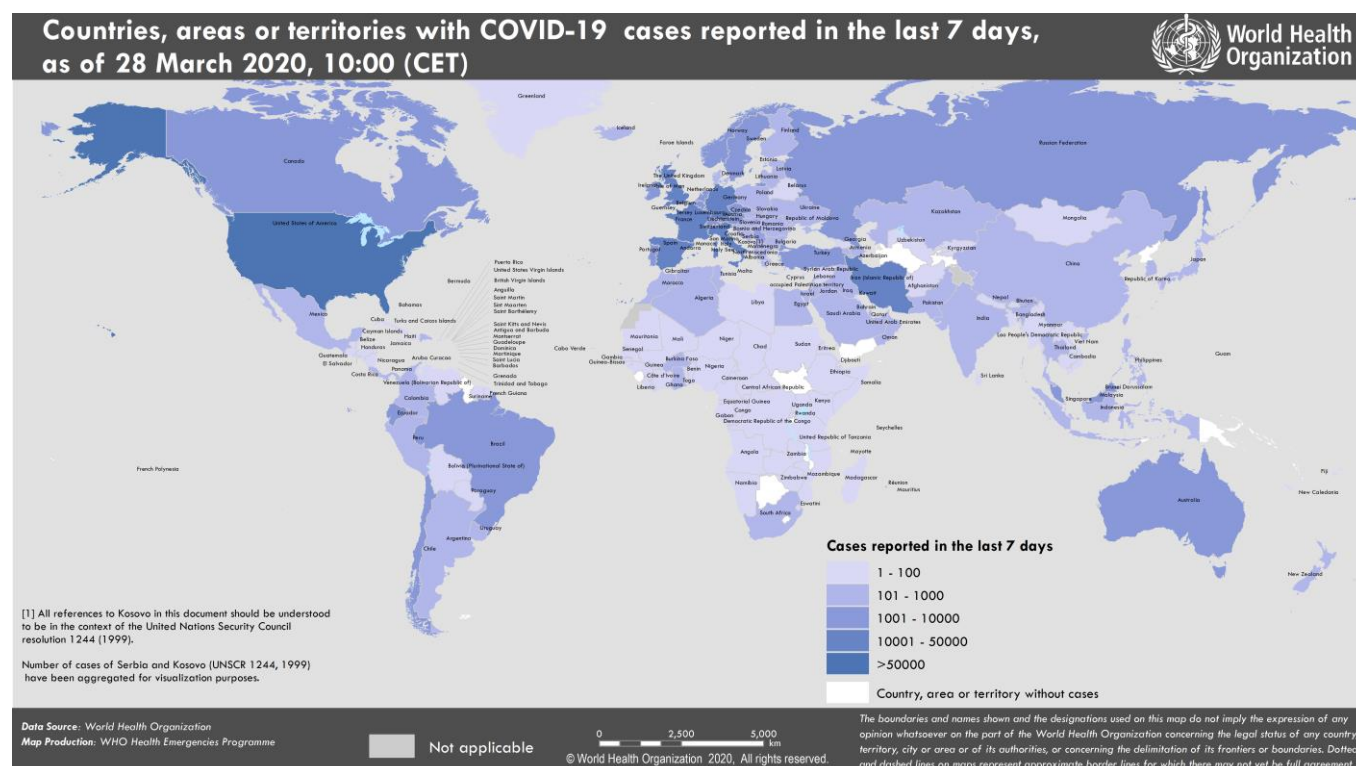
African Region

2831 confirmed (412)
47 deaths (08)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 28 March 2020



SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 28 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	82230	152	3301	3	Local transmission	0
Republic of Korea	9478	146	144	5	Local transmission	0
Australia	3635	650	14	1	Local transmission	0
Malaysia	2161	130	26	3	Local transmission	0
Japan	1499	112	49	3	Local transmission	0
Philippines	803	96	54	9	Local transmission	0
Singapore	732	49	2	0	Local transmission	0
New Zealand	416	78	0	0	Local transmission	0
Viet Nam	169	16	0	0	Local transmission	0
Brunei Darussalam	115	1	1	1	Local transmission	0
Cambodia	104	6	0	0	Local transmission	0
Mongolia	12	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	6	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Fiji	5	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	7
Territories**						
Guam	51	6	1	0	Local transmission	0
French Polynesia	30	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
New Caledonia	15	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
European Region						
Italy	86498	5959	9136	971	Local transmission	0
Spain	64059	7871	4858	769	Local transmission	0
Germany	48582	6294	325	72	Local transmission	0
France	32542	3756	1992	297	Local transmission	0
The United Kingdom	14547	2885	759	181	Local transmission	0
Switzerland	12104	1390	197	36	Local transmission	0
Netherlands	8603	1172	546	112	Local transmission	0
Austria	7697	668	68	16	Local transmission	0
Belgium	7284	1049	289	69	Local transmission	0
Turkey	5698	2069	92	17	Local transmission	0
Portugal	4268	724	76	16	Local transmission	0
Norway	3581	425	16	2	Local transmission	0
Israel	3460	425	12	2	Local transmission	0
Sweden	3046	240	92	26	Local transmission	0
Czechia	2279	217	9	0	Local transmission	0
Ireland	2121	302	22	3	Local transmission	0
Denmark	2046	169	52	11	Local transmission	0
Luxembourg	1605	152	15	6	Local transmission	0
Poland	1389	168	16	0	Local transmission	0
Romania	1292	263	24	7	Local transmission	0
Russian Federation	1264	228	4	1	Local transmission	0
Finland	1025	67	7	3	Local transmission	0
Greece	966	74	28	2	Local transmission	0
Iceland	890	88	2	0	Local transmission	0
Slovenia	632	55	9	4	Local transmission	0

Croatia	586	91	3	1	Local transmission	0
Estonia	575	37	1	0	Local transmission	0
Serbia	528	71	7	0	Local transmission	0
Armenia	372	43	1	0	Local transmission	0
Lithuania	358	59	5	1	Local transmission	0
Hungary	343	43	11	1	Local transmission	0
Ukraine	311	93	8	3	Local transmission	0
Slovakia	295	69	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bulgaria	293	29	3	0	Local transmission	0
Andorra	289	58	3	0	Local transmission	0
Latvia	280	36	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	233	20	4	1	Local transmission	0
San Marino	228	10	21	0	Local transmission	0
North Macedonia	219	18	3	0	Local transmission	0
Kazakhstan	204	79	1	1	Imported cases only	0
Republic of Moldova	199	22	2	0	Local transmission	0
Albania	197	11	9	1	Local transmission	0
Cyprus	162	16	5	2	Local transmission	0
Azerbaijan	147	25	3	0	Local transmission	0
Malta	139	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Uzbekistan	104	21	1	1	Local transmission	0
Belarus	94	8	0	0	Local transmission	0
Georgia	85	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Montenegro	70	3	1	0	Local transmission	0
Liechtenstein	60	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Kyrgyzstan	58	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Monaco	19	0	0	0	Local transmission	5
Holy See	4	0	0	0	Under investigation	2
Territories**						
Faroe Islands	144	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Kosovo ^[1]	88	9	1	0	Local transmission	0
Gibraltar	55	20	0	0	Local transmission	0
Jersey	52	20	1	0	Local transmission	0
Guernsey	36	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Isle of Man	29	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
Greenland	9	3	0	0	Under investigation	0
South-East Asia Region						
Thailand	1136	0	5	0	Local transmission	1
Indonesia	1046	153	87	9	Local transmission	0
India	724	0	17	0	Local transmission	1
Sri Lanka	106	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Bangladesh	48	0	5	0	Local transmission	1
Maldives	13	0	0	0	Local transmission	12
Myanmar	5	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Bhutan	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Nepal	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Timor-Leste	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	7
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	32332	2926	2378	144	Local transmission	0
Pakistan	1235	178	9	1	Local transmission	0
Saudi Arabia	1104	92	3	0	Local transmission	0
Qatar	562	13	0	0	Local transmission	0

Egypt	536	41	30	6	Local transmission	0
Bahrain	473	15	4	0	Local transmission	0
Iraq	458	76	40	4	Local transmission	0
United Arab Emirates	405	72	2	0	Local transmission	0
Lebanon	391	23	8	2	Local transmission	0
Morocco	358	83	23	13	Local transmission	0
Jordan	235	23	1	1	Local transmission	0
Kuwait	235	27	0	0	Local transmission	0
Tunisia	227	30	6	1	Local transmission	0
Oman	152	43	0	0	Local transmission	0
Afghanistan	106	26	2	0	Local transmission	0
Djibouti	13	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Syrian Arab Republic	5	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Somalia	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Sudan	3	0	1	0	Imported cases only	3
Libya	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian territory	97	13	1	0	Local transmission	0
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	85228	16894	1243	252	Local transmission	0
Canada	4018	463	39	4	Local transmission	0
Brazil	2915	482	77	20	Local transmission	0
Chile	1610	304	5	1	Local transmission	0
Ecuador	1595	384	36	7	Local transmission	0
Panama	674	116	9	1	Local transmission	0
Argentina	589	87	12	4	Local transmission	0
Mexico	589	111	8	3	Local transmission	0
Dominican Republic	581	93	20	10	Local transmission	0
Peru	580	0	9	0	Local transmission	1
Colombia	491	21	6	2	Local transmission	0
Uruguay	238	21	0	0	Local transmission	0
Costa Rica	231	30	2	0	Local transmission	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	106	15	0	0	Local transmission	0
Cuba	80	13	2	1	Local transmission	0
Honduras	67	15	1	0	Local transmission	0
Trinidad and Tobago	66	5	2	1	Local transmission	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	61	22	0	0	Local transmission	0
Paraguay	52	11	3	0	Local transmission	0
Jamaica	26	0	1	0	Local transmission	2
Guatemala	25	1	1	0	Local transmission	0
Barbados	24	6	0	0	Local transmission	0
El Salvador	13	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Dominica	11	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Bahamas	9	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Haiti	8	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Suriname	8	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Antigua and Barbuda	7	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Grenada	7	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Guyana	5	0	1	0	Local transmission	9
Saint Lucia	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4

Belize	2	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Nicaragua	2	0	1	1	Imported cases only	6
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	15
Territories**						
Guadeloupe	96	20	2	2	Imported cases only	0
Martinique	93	27	1	0	Imported cases only	0
Puerto Rico	64	0	2	0	Imported cases only	1
French Guiana	31	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
Aruba	28	9	0	0	Local transmission	0
United States Virgin Islands	17	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4
Bermuda	15	8	0	0	Local transmission	0
Saint Martin	12	1	0	0	Under investigation	0
Cayman Islands	8	0	1	0	Imported cases only	2
Curaçao	7	0	1	0	Imported cases only	1
Montserrat	5	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Saint Barthélemy	5	2	0	0	Under investigation	0
Sint Maarten	3	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Anguilla	2	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
British Virgin Islands	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Turks and Caicos Islands	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
African Region						
South Africa	1170	243	2	2	Local transmission	0
Algeria	367	62	25	4	Local transmission	0
Burkina Faso	146	0	3	0	Local transmission	2
Ghana	137	5	4	1	Local transmission	0
Senegal	119	14	0	0	Local transmission	0
Mauritius	96	15	2	0	Imported cases only	0
Cote d'Ivoire	92	12	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cameroon	75	0	1	0	Local transmission	1
Nigeria	65	0	1	0	Local transmission	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	58	4	4	0	Local transmission	0
Rwanda	54	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Madagascar	26	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Kenya	25	0	1	0	Local transmission	3
Togo	25	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Congo	19	15	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Ethiopia	16	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Uganda	14	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
United Republic of Tanzania	13	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Zambia	13	10	0	0	Local transmission	0
Niger	10	0	1	0	Local transmission	1
Eswatini	9	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Mali	9	7	0	0	Local transmission	0
Guinea	8	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Namibia	8	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Gabon	7	1	1	0	Imported cases only	0
Mozambique	7	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Seychelles	7	0	0	0	Imported cases only	6

Benin	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Central African Republic	6	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Equatorial Guinea	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	6
Eritrea	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Cabo Verde	5	2	1	1	Imported cases only	0
Chad	5	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Zimbabwe	5	2	1	0	Local transmission	0
Liberia	3	0	0	0	Local transmission	6
Mauritania	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Angola	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	6
Gambia	2	0	1	1	Imported cases only	3
Guinea-Bissau	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Territories**						
Réunion	135	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Mayotte	50	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Subtotal for all regions	570947	62495	26486	3158		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	7	0	Local transmission	12
Grand total	571659	62495	26493	3158		

*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)

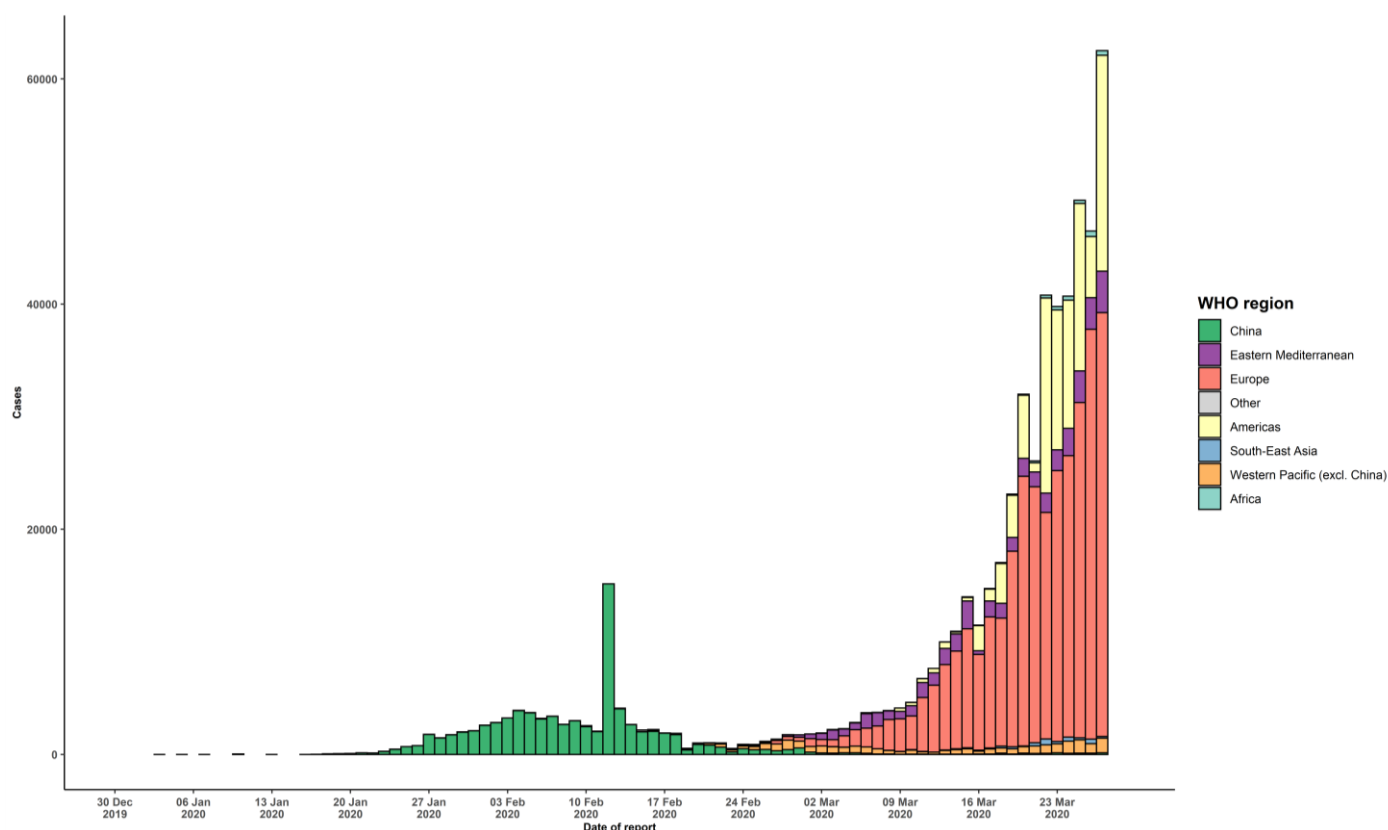
** "Territories" include territories, areas, overseas dependencies and other jurisdictions of similar status

[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.

Erratum: Total cases and new cases have been revised for China and Cambodia. Total deaths and new deaths have been revised for South Africa

Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 28 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](#) and courses in [additional national languages 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, 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)