

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 57

Data as reported by national authorities by 10 AM CET 17 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 new countries/territories/areas (African Region [3], Eastern Mediterranean Region [1], Region of the Americas [3], and Western Pacific Region [1]) in have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- As the on-going COVID-19 pandemic continues to develop, WHO is committed to working together with the travel, transport and tourism sectors on emergency preparedness and response. For more information, please see the *Subject in Focus* section below.
- OpenWHO is an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering free online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. COVID-19 resources are available in the official WHO languages [here](#) and in additional national languages [here](#). The OpenWHO team is continuing to work with WHO Country Offices, public health institutes and educational entities who have offered voluntary translation support to help localize the response efforts. Resources in the pipeline include courses in Hindi and Macedonian. For more information, please see the *Preparedness and Response* section of the Situation Report.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

179 112 confirmed (11 526)
7426 deaths (475)

Western Pacific Region

91 779 confirmed (289)
3357 deaths (23)

European Region

64 189 confirmed (8507)
3108 deaths (428)

South-East Asia

508 confirmed (124)
9 deaths (2)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

16 786 confirmed (330)
873 deaths (3)

Regions of the Americas

4910 confirmed (2234)
68 deaths (18)

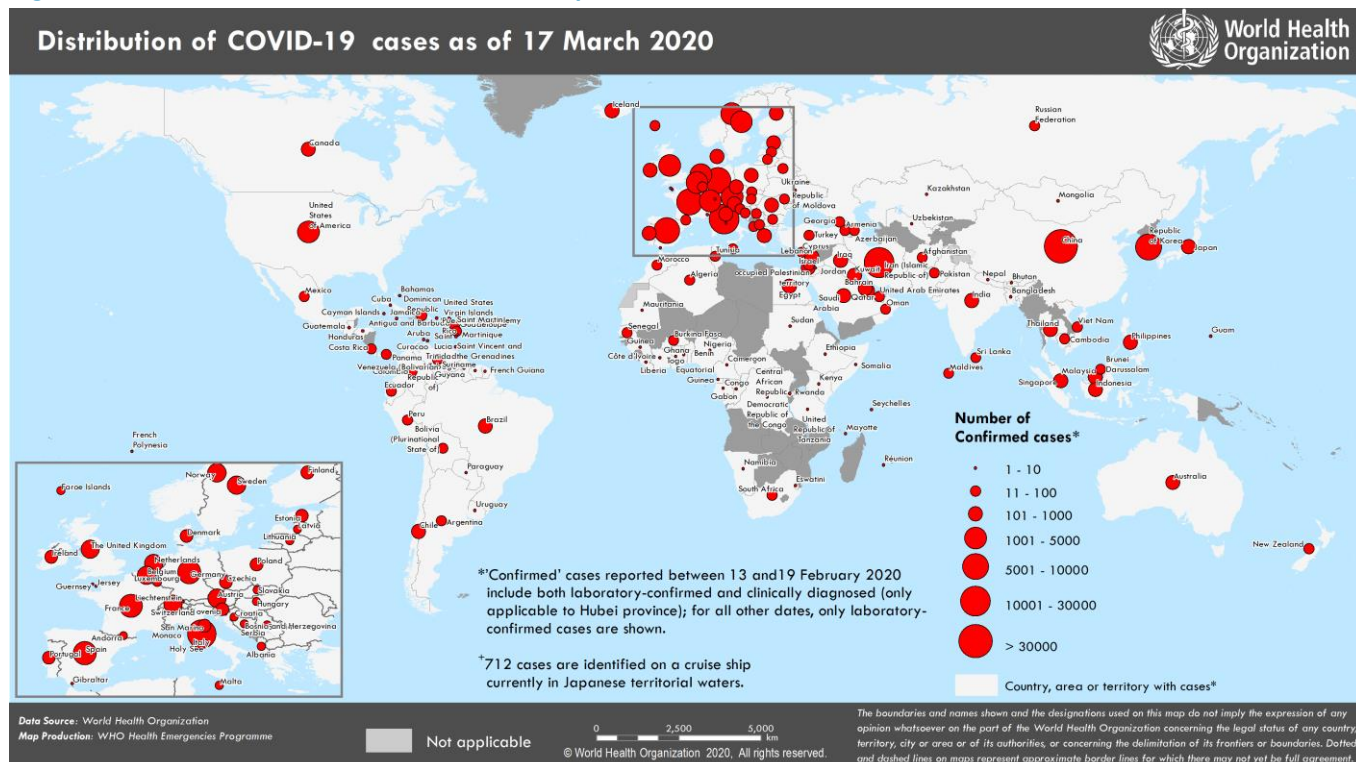
African Region

228 confirmed (42)
4 deaths (1)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

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



SUBJECT IN FOCUS: Update on partner coordination with international travel, transport and tourism sectors

As the on-going Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to develop, WHO is committed to working together with the travel, transport and tourism sectors on emergency preparedness and response.

In a global world with hyperconnected international travel and transport, points of entry (PoEs)– airports, ports and ground crossings – can play a key role in the international spread of diseases through travellers, conveyances and goods. The travel and transport sectors are indispensable actors in public health emergency preparedness and response actions related to PoEs.

WHO has published three joint statements to remind all stakeholders of the importance of following International Health Regulations and guidance, existing regulations of partner organizations, and the need for cross-sector collaboration. The joint statements were released respectively, with the [International Maritime Organization](#) (IMO), the [International Civil Aviation Organization](#) (ICAO) and the [World Tourism Organization](#) (UNWTO).

With input from IMO, ICAO, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and UNWTO as well as major industry associations, WHO has produced and continues to develop comprehensive COVID-19 technical guidance on maritime and aviation traffic and ground crossings. These include:

- [Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases and outbreaks on board ships \(Interim guidance\)](#);
- [Management of ill travellers at Points of Entry – international airports, seaports and ground crossings – in the context of COVID-19 outbreak](#);
- [Public health preparedness and response for aviation sector](#);
- [Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships](#); and the
- [Handbook for the management of public health events on board ships](#).

Additionally, guidance on operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases and outbreak in aviation, scaling up preparedness for COVID-19 at ground crossings, and managing COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in hotels and other travel and tourism accommodations are under development and will be available soon.

WHO also regularly updates travel advice to support emergency preparedness, which is available [here](#). ICAO is also publishing a [dedicated website with specific resources](#), and guidance for airlines industries and national authorities. Similarly, [IMO](#) and [UNWTO](#) host dedicated websites with resources and guidance for their members and stakeholders.

SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 17 March 2020*

Reporting Country/ Territory/Area [†]	Total confirmed ‡ cases	Total confirmed new cases ¹	Total deaths	Total new deaths ¹	Transmission classification [§]	Days since last reported case
Western Pacific Region						
China	81116	39	3231	13	Local transmission	0
Republic of Korea	8320	84	81	6	Local transmission	0
Japan	829	15	28	4	Local transmission	0
Malaysia	553	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Australia	375	77	5	0	Local transmission	0
Singapore	243	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Philippines	187	47	12	0	Local transmission	0
Viet Nam	61	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Brunei Darussalam	50	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Cambodia	24	12	0	0	Local transmission	0
New Zealand	11	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Mongolia	4	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Territories**						
French Polynesia	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Guam	3	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
European Region						
Italy	27980	3233	2503	349	Local transmission	0
Spain	9191	1438	309	21	Local transmission	0
France	6573	1193	148	21	Local transmission	0
Germany	6012	1174	13	1	Local transmission	0
Switzerland	2200	0	14	1	Local transmission	1
The United Kingdom	1547	152	55	20	Local transmission	0
Netherlands	1413	278	24	4	Local transmission	0
Norway	1169	92	3	2	Local transmission	0
Austria	1132	173	3	2	Local transmission	0
Belgium	1085	0	5	0	Local transmission	1
Sweden	1059	67	3	0	Local transmission	0
Denmark	960	62	4	3	Local transmission	0
Czechia	383	85	0	0	Local transmission	0
Greece	331	0	4	0	Local transmission	1
Portugal	331	86	0	0	Local transmission	0
Israel	250	50	0	0	Local transmission	0
Finland	272	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Slovenia	253	34	0	0	Local transmission	0
Ireland	223	54	2	0	Local transmission	0
Estonia	205	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Iceland	199	19	0	0	Local transmission	0
Romania	158	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Poland	150	0	3	0	Local transmission	1
San Marino	102	10	9	4	Local transmission	0
Russian Federation	93	30	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Luxembourg	81	43	1	0	Local transmission	0
Slovakia	72	11	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bulgaria	67	16	2	0	Local transmission	0
Serbia**	70	24	0	0	Local transmission	0
Croatia	56	7	0	0	Local transmission	0

Armenia	52	26	0	0	Local transmission	0
Albania	51	9	1	0	Local transmission	0
Hungary	50	11	1	0	Local transmission	0
Turkey	47	42	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Belarus	36	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Latvia	36	5	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cyprus	33	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Georgia	33	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Malta	30	9	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Republic of Moldova	29	6	0	0	Local transmission	0
Azerbaijan	19	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
North Macedonia	19	6	0	0	Local transmission	0
Lithuania	17	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Andorra	14	12	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Monaco	9	0	0	0	Under investigation	1
Liechtenstein	7	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Ukraine	7	4	1	0	Local transmission	0
Kazakhstan	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Uzbekistan	4	0	0	0	Under investigation	1
Holy See	1	0	0	0	Under investigation	11
Territories**						
Faroe Islands	47	36	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Gibraltar	3	2	0	0	Under investigation	0
Jersey	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4
Guernsey	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	7
South-East Asia Region						
Indonesia	172	55	5	1	Local transmission	0
Thailand	147	33	1	0	Local transmission	0
India	137	23	3	1	Local transmission	0
Sri Lanka	29	10	0	0	Local transmission	0
Maldives	13	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Bangladesh	8	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bhutan	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	11
Nepal	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	53
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14991	0	853	0	Local transmission	1
Qatar	439	38	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bahrain	229	8	1	0	Local transmission	0
Pakistan	187	135	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Egypt	166	40	4	2	Local transmission	0
Saudi Arabia	133	30	0	0	Local transmission	0
Kuwait	130	18	0	0	Local transmission	0
Iraq	124	0	9	0	Local transmission	1
Lebanon	109	10	3	0	Local transmission	0
United Arab Emirates	98	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Morocco	38	10	2	1	Local transmission	0
Jordan	35	29	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Oman	24	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Afghanistan	21	5	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Tunisia	20	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Sudan	2	1	1	0	Imported cases only	0

Somalia	1	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian Territory	39	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	3503	1825	58	17	Local transmission	0
Canada	424	120	1	0	Local transmission	0
Brazil	234	34	0	0	Local transmission	0
Chile	156	81	0	0	Local transmission	0
Peru	86	15	0	0	Local transmission	0
Panama	69	26	1	0	Local transmission	0
Argentina	65	9	2	0	Local transmission	0
Ecuador	58	21	2	0	Local transmission	0
Mexico	53	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Colombia	45	21	0	0	Local transmission	0
Costa Rica	41	18	0	0	Local transmission	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	33	16	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Dominican Republic	21	16	1	1	Local transmission	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	11	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Jamaica	10	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Paraguay	9	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Honduras	8	6	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Uruguay	6	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cuba	5	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Trinidad and Tobago	5	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Guyana	4	0	1	0	Local transmission	1
Saint Lucia	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Bahamas	1	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Guatemala	1	0	1	0	Imported cases only	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4
Suriname	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Territories**						
Guadeloupe	18	12	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Martinique	16	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
French Guiana	7	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Curaçao	3	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Puerto Rico	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Saint Barthelemy	3	0	0	0	Under investigation	1
Aruba	2	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Saint Martin	2	0	0	0	Under investigation	14
United States Virgin Islands	2	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cayman Islands	1	0	1	0	Imported cases only	3
African Region						
South Africa	62	11	0	0	Local transmission	0
Algeria	60	11	4	1	Local transmission	0
Senegal	27	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Burkina Faso	15	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Rwanda	7	2	0	0	Local transmission	0

Cote d'Ivoire	6	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Ghana	6	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Cameroon	5	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Ethiopia	5	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Seychelles	4	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Kenya	3	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Namibia	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Nigeria	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	8
Benin	1	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Central African Republic	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Congo	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Eswatini	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Gabon	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Guinea	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Liberia	1	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Mauritania	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Togo	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	10
United Republic of Tanzania	1	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Territories**						
Réunion	9	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Mayotte	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Subtotal for all regions	178400	11526	7419	475		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	7	0	Local transmission	1
Grand total	179112	11526	7426	475		

*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

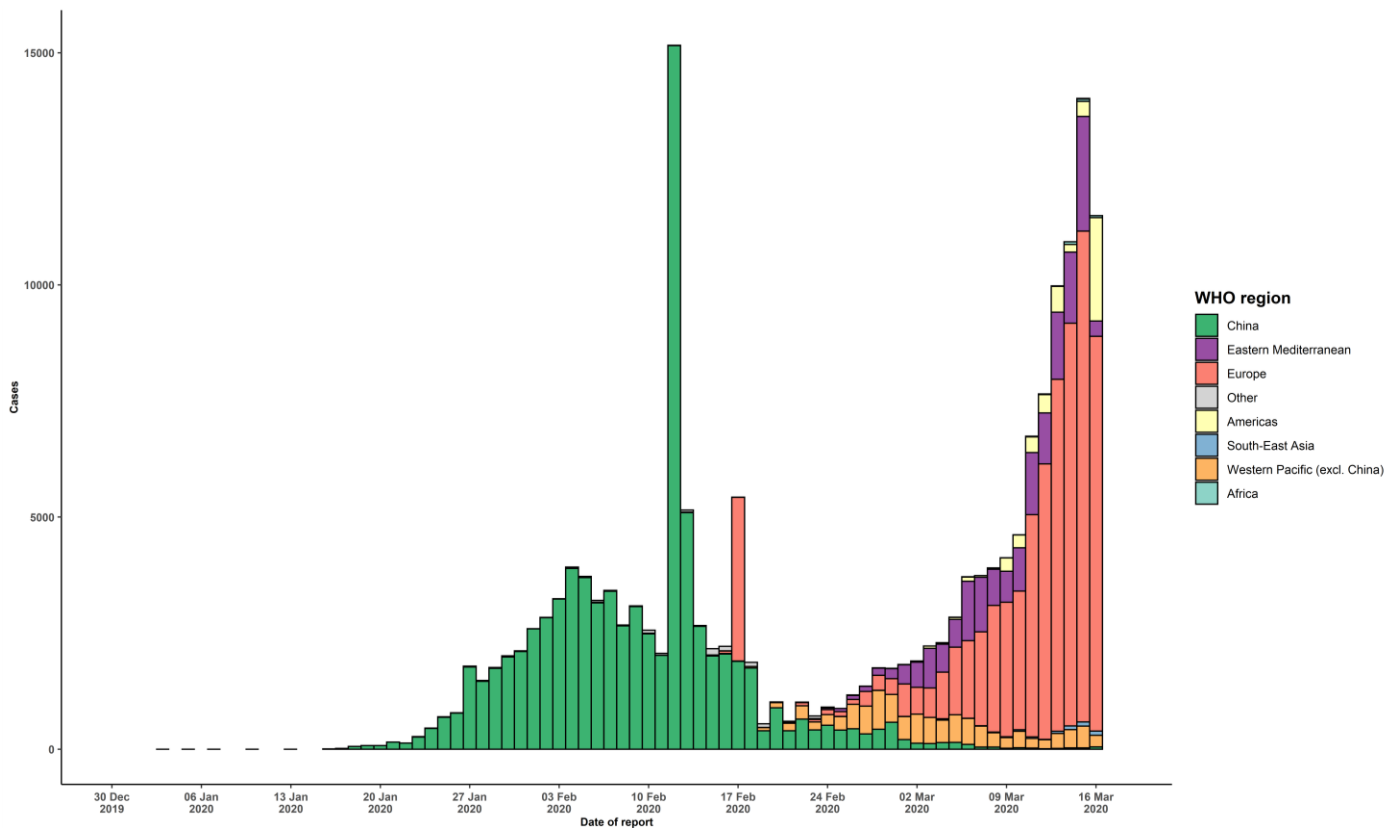
**Including 13 (5 new) cases from Kosovo^[1]

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

Due to a retrospective data consolidation exercise, some numbers may not reflect the exact difference between yesterday's and today's totals.

New countries/territories/areas are shown in red.

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 17 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, Portuguese, Persian, 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 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 with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation AND a history of travel to or residence in a country/area or territory reporting local transmission (See [situation report](#)) 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 onset of symptoms;

OR

C. A patient with severe acute respiratory infection (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g., cough, shortness breath) AND requiring hospitalization AND with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation.

Probable case

A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive.

- Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory

Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

- Information regarding laboratory guidance can be found [here](#).