

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 58

Data as reported by national authorities by 00:00 CET 18 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- One new country/territory/area (European Region [1]) has reported cases of COVID-19.
- Data presented in the COVID-19 Situation Reports has changed to reflect data reported as of 00:00 CET. As this is the first Situation Report with the new reporting period, there is overlap of data between Situation Report 57 and this report, thus the number of new cases may not equal the difference between total cases in the two reports.
- 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.
- WHO, IFRC, and UNICEF jointly released the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance for COVID-19 on 16 March. For more information, please see the *Subject in Focus* section below.

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

Globally

191 127 confirmed (15 123)
7807 deaths (786)

Western Pacific Region

91 845 confirmed (312)
3357 deaths (23)

European Region

74 760 confirmed (10 911)
3352 deaths (604)

South-East Asia Region

538 confirmed (63)
9 deaths (1)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

18 060 confirmed (1552)
1010 deaths (140)

Regions of the Americas

4979 confirmed (2243)
68 deaths (18)

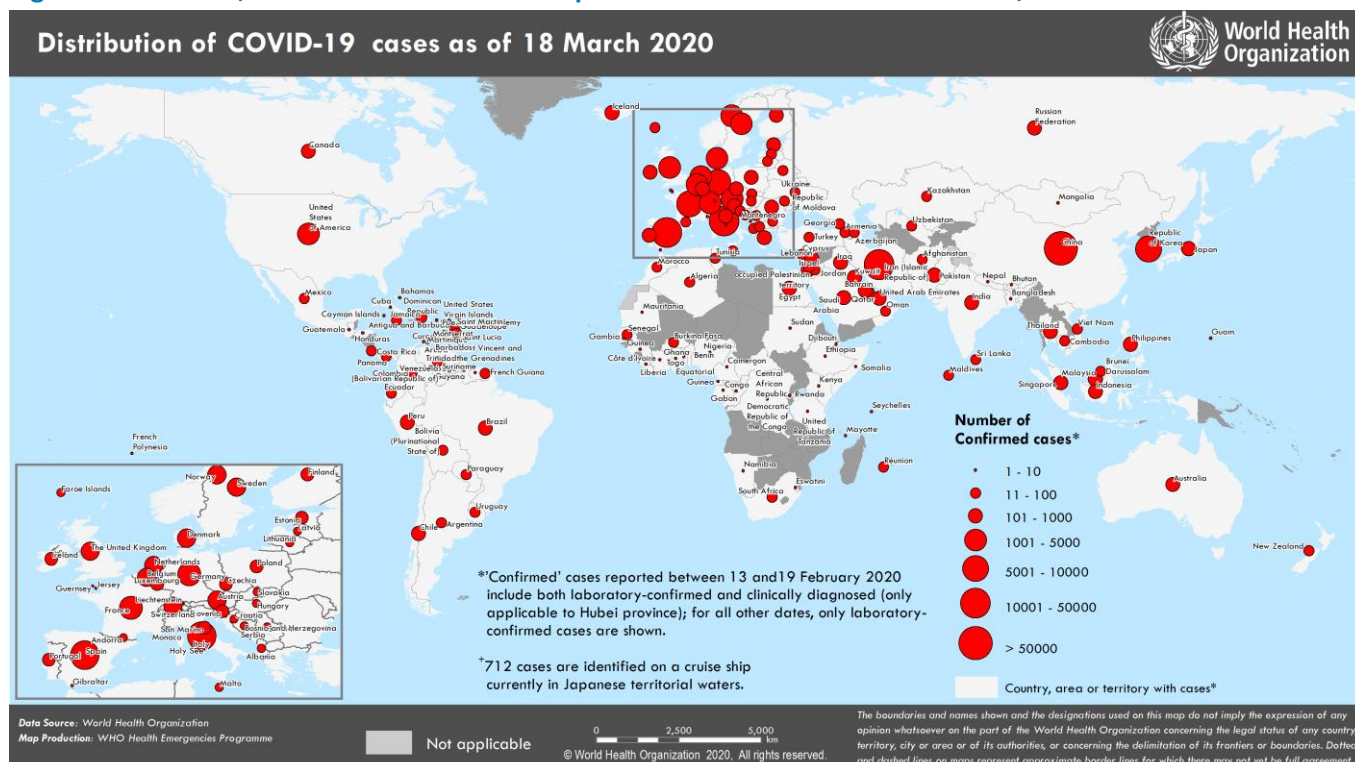
African Region

233 confirmed (42)
4 deaths (0)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 18 March 2020



SUBJECT IN FOCUS: Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan

WHO, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and UNICEF jointly released the [Risk Communication and Community Engagement \(RCCE\) Action Plan Guidance](#) for COVID-19 on 16 March.

The RCCE guidance is a tool to support national health authorities, responders and other partners to develop, implement and monitor action plans for communicating effectively with the public and engaging with communities, local partners and other stakeholders.

The tool includes a 7-step guidance process, which includes: collecting data and making assessments; developing coordination mechanisms; defining and prioritizing key objectives; identifying target audiences and key influencers; developing a RCCE strategy that fits into the country's response strategy; implementing the plan with partners and engaging the community; and developing a monitoring plan for evaluation purposes. The RCCE Action Plan Guidance has a planning template and practical annexes to assist with the exercise.

It allows countries and communities to:

- Adapt the elements according to country needs and the local situation.
- Revise plans according to the evolution of the situation.
- Coordinate and plan together with authorities and partners.
- Proactively communicate and promote a two-way dialogue with communities, the public and other stakeholders.
- Understand risk perceptions, behaviours and existing barriers, specific needs, knowledge gaps, and provide the identified communities/groups with accurate information tailored to their circumstances.
- Reduce stigma. See [WHO's Guide to preventing and addressing social stigma](#)
- Conduct early and ongoing assessments to identify essential information about at-risk populations and other stakeholders (i.e. their perception, knowledge, preferred and accessible communication channels, or existing barriers that prevent people to uptake the promoted behaviors).
- Ensure that all people at-risk of acquiring COVID-19 are identified, reached and involved.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement is an essential component of health emergency preparedness and response. This Action Plan Guidance for COVID-19 provides a strategy and tool that helps to prepare and protect individuals, families and the public's health during early response to COVID-19.

SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 18 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	414	78	5	0	Local transmission	0
Singapore	266	23	0	0	Local transmission	0
Philippines	187	45	12	0	Local transmission	0
Viet Nam	61	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Brunei Darussalam	54	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Cambodia	24	12	0	0	Local transmission	0
New Zealand	11	5	0	0	Local transmission	0
Mongolia	4	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Territories**						
French Polynesia	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Guam	3	3	0	0	Local transmission	0
European Region						
Italy	31506	3526	2503	345	Local transmission	0
Spain	11178	1987	491	182	Local transmission	0
France	7652	1079	175	27	Local transmission	0
Germany	7156	1144	13	0	Local transmission	0
Switzerland	2650	450	14	5	Local transmission	0
The United Kingdom	1954	407	55	5	Local transmission	0
Netherlands	1705	292	43	19	Local transmission	0
Belgium	1486	401	14	9	Local transmission	0
Austria	1332	373	3	2	Local transmission	0
Norway	1308	139	3	0	Local transmission	0
Sweden	1167	108	3	0	Local transmission	0
Denmark	977	79	4	3	Local transmission	0
Portugal	448	117	1	1	Local transmission	0
Czechia	434	136	0	0	Local transmission	0
Greece	387	56	4	0	Local transmission	0
Finland	319	47	0	0	Local transmission	0
Israel	304	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Ireland	292	69	2	0	Local transmission	0
Slovenia	275	22	1	1	Local transmission	0
Poland	246	96	5	2	Local transmission	0
Estonia	225	20	0	0	Local transmission	0
Iceland	225	45	0	0	Local transmission	0
Romania	184	26	0	0	Local transmission	0
Luxembourg	140	59	1	0	Local transmission	0
San Marino	104	2	11	2	Local transmission	0
Slovakia	97	25	0	0	Local transmission	0
Russian Federation	93	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Bulgaria	81	14	2	0	Local transmission	0
Serbia ^{††}	85	23	0	0	Local transmission	0
Croatia	65	9	0	0	Local transmission	0

Latvia	60	24	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Albania	55	4	1	0	Local transmission	0
Armenia	52	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Hungary	50	11	1	0	Local transmission	0
Turkey	47	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Malta	38	8	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Belarus	36	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Georgia	34	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cyprus	33	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Kazakhstan	33	27	0	0	Imported cases only	0
North Macedonia	31	12	0	0	Local transmission	0
Republic of Moldova	30	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Lithuania	25	8	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Azerbaijan	21	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Andorra	16	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Uzbekistan	16	12	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Ukraine	14	9	2	1	Local transmission	0
Monaco	9	0	0	0	Under investigation	1
Liechtenstein	7	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Montenegro	2	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Holy See	1	0	0	0	Under investigation	11
Territories**						
Faroe Islands	47	36	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Jersey	5	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Gibraltar	3	0	0	0	Under investigation	1
Guernsey	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	8
South-East Asia Region						
Thailand	177	30	1	0	Local transmission	0
Indonesia	172	0	5	0	Local transmission	1
India	137	23	3	1	Local transmission	0
Sri Lanka	29	10	0	0	Local transmission	0
Maldives	13	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Bangladesh	8	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Bhutan	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	11
Nepal	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	54
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	16169	1178	988	135	Local transmission	0
Qatar	442	41	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bahrain	237	16	1	0	Local transmission	0
Pakistan	187	134	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Saudi Arabia	171	38	0	0	Local transmission	0
Egypt	166	40	4	2	Local transmission	0
Iraq	154	30	11	2	Local transmission	0
Kuwait	130	7	0	0	Local transmission	0
Lebanon	120	21	3	0	Local transmission	0
United Arab Emirates	98	0	0	0	Local transmission	2
Morocco	38	9	2	1	Local transmission	0
Jordan	35	29	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Oman	24	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Tunisia	24	4	0	0	Local transmission	0
Afghanistan	22	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0

Somalia	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Sudan	1	0	1	0	Imported cases only	3
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian territory	41	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	3536	1822	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
Mexico	82	29	0	0	Imported cases only	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
Colombia	45	11	0	0	Local transmission	0
Costa Rica	41	6	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
Jamaica	12	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	11	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Paraguay	9	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Honduras	8	6	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Guatemala	6	5	1	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	2
Saint Lucia	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4
Bahamas	1	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	4
Suriname	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Territories**						
Guadeloupe	18	12	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Martinique	16	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
French Guiana	7	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Curacao	3	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Puerto Rico	3	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Saint Barthélemy	3	0	0	0	Under investigation	2
Aruba	2	2	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Saint Martin	2	0	0	0	Under investigation	15
United States Virgin Islands	2	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cayman Islands	1	0	1	0	Imported cases only	4
African Region						
South Africa	62	11	0	0	Local transmission	0
Algeria	60	11	4	0	Local transmission	0
Senegal	27	1	0	0	Local transmission	0
Burkina Faso	20	5	0	0	Imported cases only	0

Rwanda	7	2	0	0	Local transmission	0
Cote d'Ivoire	6	3	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Ghana	6	4	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Cameroon	5	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Ethiopia	5	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Seychelles	4	0	0	0	Imported cases only	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3	1	0	0	Imported cases only	0
Kenya	3	0	0	0	Local transmission	1
Namibia	2	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
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	3
Congo	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	2
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Eswatini	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
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	3
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	2
Mayotte	1	0	0	0	Imported cases only	3
Subtotal for all regions	190415	15123	7800	786		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	7	0	Local transmission	2
Grand total	191127	15123	7807	786		

*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

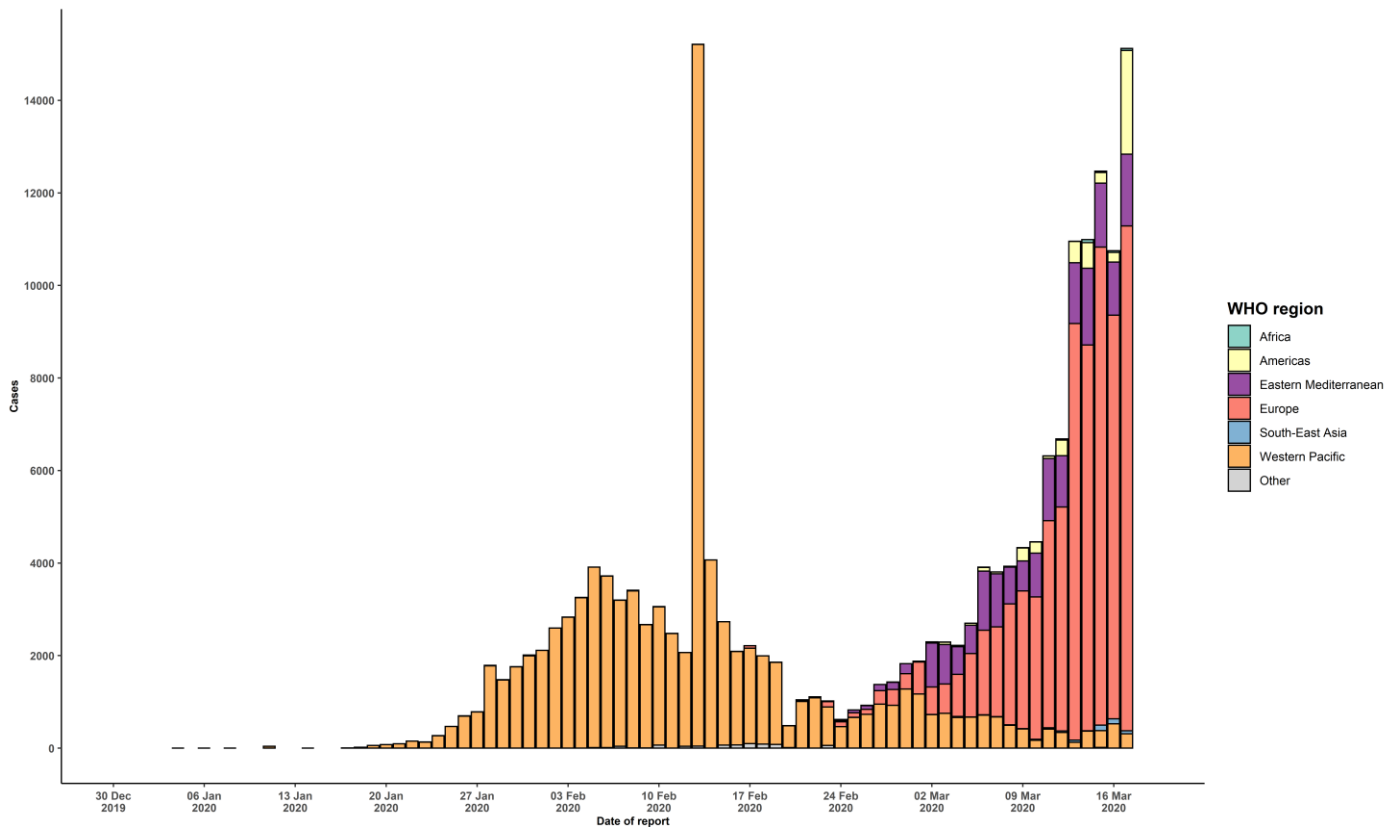
**Including 13 (8 new) cases from Kosovo^[1]

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

Due to 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.

New countries/territories/areas are shown in **red**.

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 18 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](#).