Daily Case Summary COVID-19

### 17 March 2020 1000GMT

## Introduction

As Europe is going into lockdown case numbers are increasing. China has started to resume "business as usual" demonstrating that with drastic measures, there is hope within a relatively short timeframe. Measures implemented now in Europe will only see effects in a few days (over the weekend or start of next week). Meanwhile, the next frontline will probably be the United States and Africa.

## News

### WHO News

More cases and deaths have now been reported in the rest of the world than in China. WHO have also seen a rapid escalation in social distancing measures, like closing schools and cancelling sporting events and other gatherings. However the urgency of escalation in testing, isolation and contact tracing – which is the backbone of the response, is not present.

Social distancing measures can help to reduce transmission and enable health systems to cope.

Handwashing and coughing into your elbow can reduce the risk for yourself and others.

Individually they are not enough to extinguish this pandemic. It’s the combination that makes the difference.

All countries must take a comprehensive approach

## Evolution Worldwide

### Asia

**China** : While more than 18000 cases of the respiratory illness have been recorded globally as of Sunday, it is on the decline in China, demonstrating that the course of the outbreak there has been altered, according to WHO. China reported on March 17 another uptick in confirmed coronavirus cases as infections from abroad made it increasingly hard for authorities to reduce the overall number of new infections to zero. Mainland China had 21 new confirmed cases on Monday, up from 16 a day earlier. Of the new cases, 20 involved infected travellers arriving in China from abroad.

**South** **Korea** : South Korea reported 84 new coronavirus cases on March 17, marking a third day in a row that the country has reported fewer than 100 new infections amid growing hopes that Asia's largest outbreak outside China may be easing.

### Europe

**Austria** : As of 16 March, nationwide, homes may only be left for urgently necessary professional activities, necessary purchases (groceries or medication), assisting other people, outside walks, (alone or in company of people living in the same household). Officials stated that those restrictions are being actively enforced by the police.

**Belgium** : Over the past 24 hours 172 people have tested positive for COVID-19 infection. This brings the total to 1058. The true number of people infected is much higher than the official figures as not everyone is being tested.

**France** : France today became the third European country to go on lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19, people may only leave their homes for essential purposes. People should stay at home unless it was to buy groceries, travel to work, exercise or for medical care. A French health official said the situation is deteriorating fast, with cases doubling every 3 days—a pace that threatens to overrun hospitals.

**Germany** : Germany's total has risen to 7241 cases, 15 of them fatal. COVID-19 has spread to every state in Germany, and public life is set to grind to a halt. Schools, restaurants and non-essential businesses have closed while holiday travel is prohibited and borders are partially closed. Non-essential businesses and shops will shut down, while religious gatherings will be prohibited.

**Italy** : The number of official COVID-19 fatalities has more than doubled since Thursday, when Italy’s toll topped 1000 for the first time. Italy now has 27980 infections, compared to 15113 four days ago. The overwhelming majority of the fatalities remained largely confined to northern regions. The neighboring Piedmont region around Turin has seen its number of deaths and infections nearly double in two days.

**Netherlands** : 278 more people have tested positive for COVID-19, for a total number of people tested positive at 1413. In the past 24h, our patients have died of COVID-19. A total of 24 people have now died from the disease. The average age of the deceased is 79 years (youngest 59- oldest 94). A total of 205 patients are or have been admitted to a hospital. On March 15, the Dutch government announced that all schools and preschools are closed through April 6, but will remain open for children whose parents work in vital sectors (i.e. healthcare, emergency services). All restaurants, cafés, bars, and clubs will also remain closed through April 6.

**Serbia**: Government officials declared a State of Emergency in the country to contain the outbreak, ordering the closure of schools and universities and banning indoor gatherings. The country has already closed borders to a number of countries, including Italy, Iran, China, South Korea, and Switzerland.

**Slovakia**: Government officials have declared a State of Emergency in the country to contain the outbreak, ordering the closure of all shops except grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations and banks.

**Spain** : The Spanish government has nationalized all private hospitals and healthcare providers as the country suffers a surge in coronavirus cases. The Spanish government has also declared a state of emergency and mobilized the military. Spain is now one of the worst-affected countries outside China and second to only Italy in Europe.

**United** **Kingdom** : As of 16 March, after performing 44105 tests, there have been 1543 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom. 53 people in the UK with confirmed COVID-19 infection have died, and one further death has been confirmed in the British Overseas Territory of the Cayman Islands. Additionally, one British citizen died in the outbreak on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. Prime Minister Boris Johnson advised everyone in the UK against "non-essential" travel and contact with others, as well as suggesting people should avoid pubs, clubs and theatres, and work from home if possible

### Middle East/Africa

**Iran** : The number of dead from the illness has reached 853 in the country, where a total of 14,991 people have been confirmed infected. Iran’s Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak has killed a member of the clerical body that appoints the supreme leader. At least 12 Iranian politicians and officials, both sitting and former, have now died of the illness, and 13 more have been infected and are either in quarantine or being treated.

**Rwanda**: The first locally-acquired case was reported in the country.

**South** Africa: Government officials have declared a National State of Disaster and has imposed a travel ban beginning March 18 on foreign nationals from high-risk countries which include Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and China.

### Americas

**Cayman** **Islands**: The first death was confirmed.

**Honduras**: Government officials declared a State of Emergency in the country to contain the outbreak, ordering to send public and private workers home, temporarily call off flights, suspend public transport, banning indoor gatherings, and the closure of businesses.

**United** **States** : The number of coronavirus cases in the United States has more than doubled since Friday; the public has been urged to take drastic steps to curb virus spread. The US' coronavirus caseload is growing at a rate that mirrors Italy's. Social distancing is called to be the foundation of strict and wide-ranging containment measures to avoid overpowering health infrastructure.

## New Events

Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Mayotte, The Bahamas, The Republic of the Congo and United States Virgin Islands have reported their first case(s).