Daily Case Summary COVID-19

### 18 March 2020 1000GMT

## Introduction

As the disease progresses in Europe, governments are turning to more and more drastic measures to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19.

Of concern is the various approaches to testing that have been implemented in various countries. It seems that the South Korean model is the one that has drawn most success. However it is to be noted that 60% of the cases came from one cluster, ie a religious group.

## News

### WHO News

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

## Evolution Worldwide

### Asia

**China** : China has given the go-ahead for researchers to begin human safety tests of an experimental coronavirus vaccine in the race to develop a shot against the COVID-19 epidemic that has killed more than 7,000 people worldwide. Experts at the World Health Organization say they do not expect any fully tested and approved vaccine to reach the market until the middle of next year.

**Malaysia**: The first two deaths were confirmed. 107 new cases were reported, bringing the total number to 673 cases in the country.

**Singapore** : 23 more cases of COVID-19 were confirmed on Tuesday (Mar 17), bringing Singapore’s total to 266. This is the highest number of confirmed daily cases reported and the first time the number has breached 20. 17 of the new cases are imported. To note that five more people have been discharged from hospital. To date, 114 patients have recovered from the disease. Of the 152 cases still in hospital, most are stable or improving. Fourteen are in critical condition in intensive care.

**South** **Korea** : On March 17, 2020, 84 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in South Korea. The highest number of cases confirmed in a day was on February 29, with 909 confirmed cases. South Korea’s experience shows that diagnostic capacity at scale is key to epidemic control. Contact tracing is also very influential in epidemic control, as is case isolation. South Korea said on Tuesday (Mar 17) it plans to tighten border checks for all arrivals from overseas to prevent new cases of coronavirus coming into the country at a time when domestically transmitted infections are subsiding.

### Europe

**Belgium** : A further 185 cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed in Belgium over the past 24 hours. 79 people are being treated in intensive care units. In all 1243 people have been diagnosed with COVID-19, but due to limited testing the real number of cases is thought to be higher. Belgium is to impose a lockdown in the country from 11am GMT on Wednesday, restricting the movement of people, following similar strict measures by Italy, Spain and France.

**Italy** : Italy reported 345 new coronavirus deaths in the country over the last 24 hours taking its total death toll to 2503 - an increase of 16 percent. The total number of cases in Italy rose to 31506 from a previous 27980, up 12.6 percent - the slowest rate of increase.

**France** : French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday ordered stringent restrictions on people’s movement to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and said the army would be drafted in to help move the sick to hospitals. France had already shut down restaurants and bars, closed schools and put ski resorts off limits. Airbus is to stop production in Spain and France for 4 days to ‘implement’ stringent health and safety conditions. France has 175 dead, 2579 confirmed cases, of which 699 are in ICU.

**Netherlands**: Since yesterday, 292 people have tested positive for COVID-19. This brings the total number of positive tested people to 1705. Among them are 389 people working in health care. To note that they are tested more often than other groups. Nineteen patients have died from COVID-19 since the last update. The number of fatalities in the Netherlands is now 43. The age of the deceased is between 63 and 94 years

**Norway** : The Government has implemented a number of measures the last days in order to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, and most non-essential functions are closed. Numbers continue to rise with about 150/day, but at this time only seriously ill patients or exposed health care professionals are tested. Status Tuesday is 1468 tested positive, 67 admitted to hospital and 3 deaths. There is so far only 1 confirmed case offshore. Foreigners arriving from anywhere but Sweden/Finland are confined/quarantined at the nearest hotel.

**Spain** : The President of the Government of the Balearic Islands, Francina Armengol, announces that after receiving the approval of the Spanish government her government proceeds to the closure of all airports and ports in the region, with "a few exceptions".

**Portugal**: The first death was confirmed by health authorities. A media report indicates that the deceased was an 80-year-old man with pre-existing medical conditions. In addition, 117 new cases were reported in Portugal, bringing the total number to 448 cases.

**United** **Kingdom**: 559 additional cases were reported, bringing the total number to 1,950 cases. This represents a sharp increase in cases over a 24-hour period. In addition, 21 new deaths were reported, bringing the total to 56 in the country. The majority of the deaths are reported to be in England (53) and in individuals between the ages of 56 to 94 with underlying medical conditions.

### Middle East/Africa

**Iran** : The death toll in Iran saw another 13% increase Tuesday. The virus has killed 135 more people to raise the total to 988 amid over 16,000 cases. Iran issued its most dire warning yet Tuesday about the COVID-19, suggesting that many could die if people keep traveling and ignore health guidance.

**Kazakhstan** : There are 33 cases of Covid-19 confirmed. The President of Kazakhstan has introduced a state of emergency throughout the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period from March 16, 2020 until April 15, 2020.

**Israel**: Government officials have imposed new restrictions in the country to contain the outbreak, ordering school closures, halted air traffic in and out of Israel, banning indoor gatherings, visiting parks, beaches, pools, libraries, and museums. This does not include supermarkets, grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, and gas stations.

**Pakistan**: The first death was confirmed by health authorities. A media report indicates that the deceased had recently returned from Iran and was brought to a hospital in critical condition. No other details are currently available and will be updated accordingly. In addition, 87 new cases were reported, bringing the total number to 194 cases.

### Americas

**Brazil**: The first death was confirmed by Sao Paulo’s state health authorities. The city of Sao Paulo and the state of Rio de Janeiro declared a State of Emergency as a measure to curb the spread of the disease.

**Canada**: The first probable cases of community-acquired transmission with no known source of infection were confirmed by Canadian health authorities on March 16 in Ontario and Alberta. On March 17, Ontario’s health authorities declared a State of Emergency which mandates to close bars and restaurants and prohibits gatherings of over 50 people. In addition, 24 new cases were reported, bringing the total number to 440 cases, and one new death was confirmed, bringing the total number of deaths to 5 in the country.

**United** **States**: 1916 additional cases were reported, bringing the total number to 5723 cases. The states with the highest number of confirmed cases include New York (1374), Washington (909), and California (455). In addition, there have been 21 new COVID-19 associated deaths, including the first death each in Texas, South Caroline, Indiana and Nevada, bringing the total number to 97 deaths in the country.

## New Events

Benin, Greenland, Liberia, Somalia and Tanzania have reported their first case(s) of COVID-19