

26 March 2020: 1030GMT

## Case Summary

Cases worldwide: 472,790

Deaths worldwide: 21,313

Countries affected: 193

(Data taken from [Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases dashboard](#) from Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering)

## Introduction

As more and more countries go into lockdown, it is important to understand what these measures will do. Social distancing and containment allows us to flatten the curve and buy time for healthcare systems to manage the influx of patients.

However it does not allow COVID-19 to be suppressed or controlled. The predictions that the outbreak will be over soon will most probably be untrue.

## News

### WHO News

To slow the spread of COVID-19, many countries have introduced unprecedented measures, at significant social and economic cost – closing schools and businesses, cancelling sporting events and asking people to stay home and stay safe. These countries are now trying to assess when and how they will be able to ease these measures.

It's important to acknowledge that measures such as asking people to stay at home and shutting down population movement is to buy time and reduce the pressure on health systems. However on their own, these measures will not extinguish epidemics. The point of these actions is to enable the more precise and targeted measures that are needed to stop transmission and save lives.

Six measures have shown their efficiency

1. Expand, train and deploy the health care and public health workforce;
2. Implement a structural response to find every suspected case at community level;
3. Ramp up the production, capacity and availability of testing;
4. Identify, adapt and equip facilities countries will use to treat and isolate patients;
5. Countries must develop a clear plan and process to quarantine contacts;
6. Refocus the whole of government on suppressing and controlling COVID-19.

## Evolution Worldwide

### ASIA

**China:** The total number of cases in China is at least 81,731 with over 3,000 deaths.

**Singapore:** At least 558 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, including two fatalities. Most of the cases that are hospitalised are in a stable condition.

**South Korea:** A total of 9,241 cases have been confirmed, 104 more than the previous day, and the total number of deaths is 131.

### EUROPE

**Italy:** 5,210 new cases were reported, bringing the total number to 74,386. Yesterday, 683 deaths were reported, bringing the total number of deaths to 7,503. This is the fifth day with over 5,000 cases and the third day with over 700 deaths reported within a 24-hour period.

**France:** At least 25,233 cases have been confirmed in France, including 1,331 fatalities.

**Norway:** 73,089 people have been tested, 3,100 tested positive, 240 are admitted to hospital and 14 deaths have been reported (+2 in the last 24h). Approx. 7,000 health professionals are in quarantine (significant decline in the last few days). There is so far only 1 confirmed case offshore.

**Spain:** 7,937 new cases were reported, bringing the total number to 47,610 cases. This is the first day with over 7,000 new cases reported in 24 hours and the second consecutive day with over 6,000 new cases per day. In addition, 738 new deaths have been confirmed, bringing the total number of deaths in the country to 3,434. Spain has surpassed China in the number of deaths from COVID-19.

**United Kingdom:** 1,452 new cases were reported, bringing the total number to 9,529 cases. The total number of deaths across the UK is 465.

### MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA

**Iran:** A total of at least 27,017 cases have been confirmed with 2,077 deaths reported in Iran.

**India:** India has reported 610 cases and 10 deaths in the country. Indian authorities have imposed a countrywide lockdown effective March 25 for at least 3 weeks.

**Saudi Arabia:** At least 900 cases have been reported, including two deaths. The most affected areas are Jeddah and Riyadh.

**South Africa:** The total number of cases has reached 709, 12 of which have recovered.

### AMERICAS

**Canada:** 1,199 new cases were reported, for a total number of 3,290. This is the second day with over 500 new cases within a 24-hour period. The total number of deaths in the country is 30. The most rapid increase in cases has been reported in Quebec, which is probably explained by the spring holiday which was the week of March 2 - 9. Effective March 25, travellers returning to Canada will be subject to mandatory 14-day isolation under the Quarantine Act and individuals who exhibit symptoms upon arrival will be forbidden entry.

**United States:** 13,030 additional cases were reported, bringing the total number to 61,808 cases. This is the first day with over 13,000 new cases reported in 24 hours and the third consecutive day with over 9,000 new cases per day. The states with the highest number of confirmed cases include New York, New Jersey, Washington, California, and Louisiana. The total number of deaths is 859.

#### **NEW COUNTRIES**

Libya, Madagascar and Mali have reported their first case(s) of COVID-19.