Qatar’s COVID-19 Response

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OUR APPROACH

• **A whole-government approach** to the pandemic from the start

• **An integrated command structure:**
  - Supreme Committee for Crisis Management;
  - Council of Ministers;
  - National COVID-19 Committee;
  - Health Sector multi-institution committees.

Our plan sets out a clear set of actions to ensure that the health, well-being and prosperity of Qatar is protected. It aims to achieve three outcomes:

1. **Minimize the impact of the disease** and mitigate its effect on the people of Qatar

2. **Enable society to continue to function** as normally as possible during and after the pandemic

3. **Minimize and mitigate the economic impact** of the pandemic
CONSIDERING QATAR’S UNIQUE POSITION

• A crossroads and a hub for trade and travel, implementing sensitive and effective border control;

• The culture and timings of Ramadan and Eid;

• A uniquely young population;

• Our values of safe, high quality, universal health access;

• Protect the most vulnerable and at-risk populations.
• **First case identified on February 28** followed by a cluster (about 300 cases) in early March which was promptly addressed and contained.

• **High number of tests (40,384 per million),** intense contact tracing and case finding allowed for the identification of a large number of cases (3,685 per million).

• **A large proportion of positive cases is asymptomatic** or with very mild disease (91%). Only 1% required treatment in ICU and 8% hospitalization.

• **Deaths remain very low:** 10 in total (CFR 0.83 per 1000), mostly among patients with co-morbidities.

• **A number of measures undertaken to increase social distancing** have managed to keep the infection low in the population at large and allowed for a proper surge of hospital capacity.
COVID-19 positive cases in Qatar by day of diagnosis and major measures taken for social distancing

- **Entry from 14 countries restricted**
- **In-person classes suspended**
- **Mass gatherings & entertainment venues closed**
- **Public transport & restaurants closed except for take-out and delivery**
- **Online/remote working for government sector employees**
- **Targeted lockdown of a 32-block neighborhood**
- **Restraint on non-essential business**
- **Airport closed for inbound passenger flights**
- **Online/remote working for government sector employees**
- **Mandatory masking in public places**
Total cases of COVID 19 by severity. Qatar.
By 28 April 2020
Percent cases of COVID 19 by severity. Qatar. By 27 April 2020
PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

• Active case finding, aggressive tracking and tracing;

• Screening and testing (all hospital sites, five health centres, mobile units and drivethroughs);

• Cluster and outbreak investigations;

• Quarantine hotels and isolation facilities sourced (over 30,000 beds);

• Ehteraz mobile tracing application launched;

• Education for health providers, businesses and public;

• Social distancing measures to reduce attack rate and re-production rate.
HEALTH SERVICE READINESS

• Rapidly expanded capacity by 2,900 new hospital beds across 5 hospitals and 700 new ICU beds dedicated to COVID-19 ready to deploy as first line of defense;

• Aim to maintain continuity of services in all our community and tertiary hospitals;

• Optimise use of resources across all parts of the health sector;

• Rapid innovation such as telemedicine; home delivery of medicine and other medical supplies, helplines, telephone triage and community support for those with multiple conditions
QATAR’S GLOBAL EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE GLOBAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK

• Qatar Airways helped over 1 million passengers return home safely amid the global pandemic and supported evacuation and repatriation efforts of a number of countries;

• Qatar has provided aid in the form of medical equipment and supplies to China, Iran, Palestinian Authority, Gaza, Italy, Spain, USA, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, Nepal and Rwanda;

• Qatar has also aided refugee camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon

• Supporting UNDP’s Accelerator Labs Programme with focus on corona outbreak incubators;

• Participation in global clinical trial sand research to share our experience;
GOING FORWARD

1. Creating new norms which encourage personal, social and business responsibility to protect public health as well as deliver value for money: **Good Public Health = Good Business**;

2. De-escalation plan for post peak is in development;

3. Innovations in digital information systems, remote care, community and primary care and care integration that arose out of the necessity of providing care during COVID-19 must continue and be further expanded.