Since 31 December 2019, the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) has been responding to control the outbreak that would eventually become the COVID-19 pandemic. WHO is working with countries across the Region, analyzing the latest data and science, informing and engaging the public, providing updates on the current situation, coordinating with partners, distributing life-saving supplies, advancing preparedness and strengthening health systems. This weekly situation report will highlight the most recent developments in the regional response.

WEEKLY SITUATION UPDATE

- In the Western Pacific Region (WPR), a total of 19 countries and areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 27 May and 2 June 2020, there have been a total of 8,954 cases with 130 deaths reported in the region, bringing the cumulative total to 185,358 cases including 7,057 deaths (PFC 3.8%) as of 3 June 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8). Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases. The colour represents the number of cases reported in the last 7 days.

- Globally, as of 2 June 2020, 10:00 CEST, there have been 6,194,533 COVID-19 cases including 376,320 deaths in 215 countries/states/territories (6.1% PFC). Many countries that have experienced large outbreaks have also reported considerable excess mortality. While the number of new cases in EURO are coming down since mid-April, there has been a continued increasing trend shown in AFRO, EMRO, SEARO and AMRO outside the US.

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 27 May to 2 June 2020, as of 3 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)
Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 27 to 2 June 2020, as of 3 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10) (n=185,358)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO Region</th>
<th>Country, territory, area</th>
<th>Case numbers</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Change in 7-day average</th>
<th>Days since last reported case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WPRO</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>84,602</td>
<td>4,645</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7,221</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>16,986</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
<td>11,590</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>7,877</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>-50.4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Mariana Islands</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>18,997</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>371.6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>35,836</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-8.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries >5000 cases, covering the period from 27 to 2 June 2020, as of 3 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10)
Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries <5000 cases, covering the period from 27 to 2 June 2020, as of 3 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10) (GMT+8)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

- More than 2.1 million surgical masks have been sent to countries in the Western Pacific Region, along with 63,000 particulate respirators, nearly 900,000 gloves, more than 51,000 gowns and other personal protective equipment.

- A second series of editable graphics and animations has been created in conjunction with the mental health team. Over the next four weeks, these materials will be rolled out in multiple countries in multiple languages, helping people to practice self-care and appropriate help-seeking behaviour to protect their mental health and wellbeing during difficult situations such as the current pandemic.

WPRO ACTIONS

Leadership and Management

- Regional Director Dr Takeshi Kasai convened a high-level video conference with Pacific Island Ministers of Health and Heads of Health Agencies to brief them on the latest updates regarding response to COVID19 on 28th May 2020.

- WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) Incident Management Support Team (IMST) discussed Bi-regional COVID-19 response collaborations with the SEARO IMST, especially relating to situation in countries with shared borders. It was agreed to continue dialogue at fortnightly intervals.

Finance and Administration
The total deployment of personnel as of 2 June has increased to 147 experts (this includes 49 country missions). There are currently 17 active deployments in country offices.

The team is facilitating the completion of ongoing recruitments and contract extension of technical experts.

Although travel restrictions are still in place in a number of countries and areas, we are anticipating a few deployments to the Regional Office to commence in mid-June based on the current available flight schedule.

The updated shared human resource plan for the Region is continuously being updated to fill critical gaps in IMS functions.

As of 30 May, available COVID-19 funding for the Region is at USD 30.53 million.

**Health Service Delivery**

**Health Systems**

- WPRO provided ongoing support to Papua New Guinea on legal guidance for the transition from a State of Emergency (legal status) to the regular governance system and application of laws, and supported specific Pacific island countries on travel restrictions and repatriations.

**Community Engagement**

- The WPRO community engagement team conducted polling to assess the capacity needs and priorities of countries on community engagement work for the COVID-19 response to proactively plan and coordinate efforts across the Region.

- A community engagement network meeting was conducted on 29 May to continue coordination and sharing of updates, successes and lessons learned as well to provide a rapid scan of priorities and needs of country offices and ministries related to community engagement capacity building, products and tools. Outcomes of the network meeting will be compiled and will inform strategy.

**Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Clinical Management**

- Seventy participants joined a regional infection, prevention and control (IPC) network webinar, the seventh in the series, on “Strengthening the Triage Process, A Viet Nam experience” featuring Prof Thu from Viet Nam. Upcoming webinars throughout the month of June will focus on ‘special settings’.

- A poster on personal protective equipment (PPE) has been translated into Vietnamese and distributed to Bach Mai Hospital, Hanoi.

- A webinar was held with WHO County Office (WCO) Viet Nam and the National Hospital of Tropical Disease (NHTD), attended by more than 75 sites including all Viet Nam Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offices and all Viet Nam provincial hospitals. The webinar covered the following topics;
  - COVID-19 clinical syndromes;
  - An update on multi-inflammatory syndrome in children; and,
  - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing positive after recovery.

**Laboratory**

- Updated and re-submitted Q&A for re-positive discharged COVID-19 patients.
 ● Prepared updates on new developments in laboratory, diagnostics and research for detection of COVID-19 for IMST.

 ● Distributed a total of 108 Qiagen RNA extraction kits and 302 kits of SuperScript III Enzymes to eight countries (Mongolia, Viet Nam, Fiji, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia).

 ● Participated and contributed in SOLIDARITY II global meeting and global lab expert meeting on new developments in lab diagnostics.

 ● Continued coordination with Country Offices facilitating the submission of 3-month requests for manual rRT-PCR kits and consumables through Diagnostic Consortium mechanism.

 ● Collaborated with Science and Research team and external partners on a way forward on utilizing wastewater surveillance for detection of COVID-19.

 ● Working with partners on finding a solution to support Partners In Care (PIC) with alternative methods for laboratory testing (other than GeneXpert).

 Mental Health

 ● Supported countries within the Western Pacific Region to adapt the storytelling tool for children (6-11) on coping with their emotions during the COVID-19 outbreak and translate it into Filipino, Hiligaynon (Philippines) and Tok Pisin (Papua New Guinea).


 Science / Research

 ● Conducted the following activities related to science and research;
   o A webinar that included updates on vaccines in the pipeline, therapeutics and a presentation on the regulatory roles in public health.
   o Shared a review of the previous week’s COVID-19 publications; coordinated review of effective strategies based on WHO PHSM guidance.
   o Presented two Hot Topics to IMST (surface contamination, COVID-19 symptoms).
   o Participated on the HQ Guidance Review Committee for COVID 19 meetings.
   o Made connections between IMST and Australian wastewater surveillance researchers who will participate in an upcoming webinar.
   o Drafting/finalizing briefing notes (including on saliva as a diagnostic sample).
   o Positive PCR results in recovered, discharged COVID-19 patients.
   o Asymptomatic/presymptomatic infection); and preparing a webinar on the impact and implications of school closures.

 Information and Planning

 Surveillance
• WPRO classifies transmission according to three categories: imported cases (stage 1), localised community transmission (stage 2) and large-scale community transmission (stage 3). Available data indicate most countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region are experiencing stage 1 or stage 2 transmission but have not seen stage 3 transmission. In most countries, the number of reported cases is decreasing, after the first or second wave of cases. Several countries and areas are reporting low case numbers or no reported cases for more than seven days. Some countries are starting to lift their non-pharmaceutical interventions.

• The Information and Planning team is revising the regional dashboard and aims to include sub-national data on the epidemiology and healthcare capacity for all countries and areas in the region. Activities have continued to strengthen existing surveillance systems into a multisource assessment platform to detect cases, assess transmission, mobilize resources, and make decisions on non-pharmaceutical interventions.

• WPRO Information & Planning has led a working group with WHO Country Office (WCO) colleagues to draft a regional guidance for conducting multisource surveillance of COVID-19.

• WPRO Information & Planning continues to assess transmission stages for the countries/areas in Western Pacific Region.

• WPRO Information & Planning continues to support the setting of Go.Data in member states.

International Health Regulations (IHR) and Border Measures

• Cambodia
  o Lift of ban on travellers: Lifting of ban on travellers from Iran, Italy, Germany, Spain, France and the USA however travellers from these jurisdictions will still require a health certificate stating they are covid-19 free, provide proof of health insurance, complete PCR-testing upon arrival and participate in a 14-day quarantine. These requirements are in effect from 20 May 2020.

• The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
  o Traveller arrival requirements: Individuals entering The CNMI will be transferred to an evaluation site upon arrival, will be subject to quarantine and testing and will be monitored for symptoms. These requirements are in effect from 20 May 2020.

• Japan
  o Denial of Entry: 11 new countries/territories have been added to the list of countries/territories from which foreign travellers are banned from entry, bringing the total to 111 countries and regions. The new countries/territories on the list include Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, El Salvador, India, Ghana, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, South Africa and Tajikistan. These restrictions come into effect on 25 May 2020 at 00:00am (JST).

• Republic of Korea

---

1 Imported cases (stage 1): most cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting or are directly linked to imported cases, and the generation of secondary cases is limited.

2 Localized community transmission (stage 2): local transmission has been detected (i.e., cases cannot be linked to importation), but most sources of infection are identified, and most cases are occurring within a defined geographical area.

3 Large-scale community transmission (stage 3): cases cannot be easily linked to a source of infection, persons in the area are at high risk for infection.
- **Extension of measures:** Special travel measures, first issued 23 March 2020, have been extended until 19 June. Foreigners who are long-term residents of the Republic of Korea (ROK) will be required to obtain a re-entry permit prior to departing for international travel. Foreign long-term residents of the ROK will also be required to provide a medical certificate or negative COVID-19 test before boarding flights to Korea. The certificate must be in English or Korean and signed by a medical professional within 48 hours of departure.

- **Samoa**
  - **Entry requirements:** A new travel advisory was issued. New arrivals are required to complete a 14-day quarantine and are required to provide proof of a medical test valid from no more than 3 days before arrival. This is in effective from 19 May 2020.

**Operations Support and Logistics (OSL)**

- The WPRO OSL Pillar continues to procure essential COVID-19 supplies. This week, the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) from Viet Nam is ongoing with support from the WHO Country Office.
- Charter flights and national assets (e.g. military aircrafts) continue to distribute essential supplies including the recent distribution of laboratory consumables to Vanuatu.
- Onsite warehouse staff are now engaged to support Regional stockpile operations.

**Figure 4. Western Pacific Regional Office Personal Protection Equipment dashboard displaying the status of distribution in the Region as of 28 May 2020.**

![PPE dashboard graphic](image-url)
**Partner Coordination**

- Nine country plans have been uploaded to the COVID-19 Partners Platform to date. Following support provided to countries for the submission of “COVID-19 supply requests for May-Jun-Jul”, four countries have now submitted their requests via the supply portal.

**Strategic Communication**

- An op-ed template has been adapted by country offices including Fiji, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam and is being placed in national media.

- A second series of editable graphics and animations has been created in conjunction with the mental health team. Over the next four weeks, these materials will be rolled out in multiple countries in multiple languages, helping people to practice self-care and appropriate help-seeking behaviour to protect their mental health and wellbeing during difficult situations such as the current pandemic.

- The next webinar, on communicating the new normal phase 2, will take place at 11am Manila time on 3 May. Participation is open to staff from ministries of health and WHO country offices.

**MESSAGES FOR THE PUBLIC**

**EXHAUSTED?**

The frontline responders working tirelessly to save lives during this pandemic deserve time to rest. Talk to your colleagues or supervisor if you think you may be experiencing burnout.

More WHO advice for the public on COVID-19

**REGIONAL COVID-19 GUIDANCE**

- Please refer to the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific's Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (WPRO IRIS) for the latest updates and guidance (https://iris.wpro.who.int/).