Overall Strategy

*WHO’s top priority is limiting the impact of COVID-19 on people’s health. WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) encourages countries to carefully monitor key indicators for signs of transmission to prevent large-scale community transmission as public health and social measures are lifted.*

Weekly Situation Update

- In the Western Pacific Region, a total of 19 countries and areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 3 June and 9 June 2020, there have been a total of 7,820 cases with 75 deaths reported in the region, bringing the cumulative total to 193,178 cases including 7,132 deaths (Proportion of Fatal Cases (PFC) 3.7%), as of 10 June 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8).
- Globally, as of 9 June 2020, 10:00 CEST, there have been 7,039,918 COVID-19 cases including 404,396 deaths in 215 countries/states/territories (5.7% PFC). Many countries that have experienced large outbreaks have also reported considerable excess mortality. While the number of new cases in European Region (EURO) are coming down since mid-April, there has been a continued increasing trend shown in Africa Region (AFRO), Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO), South-East Asian Region (SEARO) and Americas Region (AMRO) outside the US.

Key Highlights

- New cases of COVID-19 were reported in 13 Western Pacific Region countries / areas within the past 7 days (Australia 46, Cambodia 1, Guam 3, Japan 265, Malaysia 459, Mongolia 9, New Caledonia 2, Northern Mariana Islands 7, Philippines 3,995, Republic of Korea 312, Singapore 2,678, Viet Nam 4, China 39).
- 6 countries / areas in Western Pacific Region have reported no new cases within the past 7 days (Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, French Polynesia, Laos, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea).
- Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, and Vanuatu delivered a series of table-top and field simulation exercises focusing on easing lockdowns, repatriating citizens, and assessing hospital and community readiness for COVID-19.

Update from the Office of the Regional Director

- WPRO has responded to several media requests over the past week, including a video interview of the Regional Director with the Japanese broadcaster NHK.
Latest Updates

Supplies & Logistics

Figure 1. Update on Supplies and Logistics COVID-19 response in the Western Pacific Region as of 30 May 2020.

Epi Update

Figure 2. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 3 to 9 June 2020, as of 10 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10).
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. Some countries are starting to lift their non-pharmaceutical interventions.

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries >5000 cases, covering the period from 3 to 9 June 2020, as of 10 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10)

Figure 4. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries <5000 cases, covering the period from 3 to 9 June 2020, as of 10 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10) (GMT+8)

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.
Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 3 to 9 June 2020, as of 10 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10) (n=193,178)

<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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WPRO</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>84,641</td>
<td>4,645</td>
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<td>Brunei</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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<td>Lao PDR</td>
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</table>
New Guidance

● WPRO published two guidance notes to support countries to strengthen care pathway and service delivery;
  ○ *Repurposing facilities for isolation and management of mild COVID-19 cases* links communities, civil societies, and private sectors with the health systems, providing stepwise recommendations on minimum standards of repurposing existing premises into isolation facilities to cope with the surge of patients with mild COVID-19 symptoms who do not require immediate hospitalization.
  ○ *Interim guidance note for hospitals: managing hospital services, maintaining essential routine health care and generating surge capacity* provides national and subnational health managers, senior decision-makers, hospital administrators and hospital staff, with interim guidance on actions that may be initiated to meet rapidly increasing demand generated by the COVID-19 outbreak, while maintaining access to quality essential hospital services.

New Science

Physical distancing, face masks and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of beta coronaviruses (a publication by Chu et al, 1 June 2020)

● The aim of the study was to investigate the effects of physical distancing and the use of face masks and eye protection on virus transmission in healthcare and non-health-care settings. Based on systematic review of 172 studies on COVID-19, SARS, and MERS, the investigators found:
  ○ Physical distancing of 1m was associated with 82% (95% confidence interval (CI) 62% – 91%) lower likelihood of transmission in healthcare and community, with greater distance (e.g. >2 m) potentially more effective.
  ○ Use of face masks was associated with 85% (95% CI 66% – 93%) lower likelihood of transmission compared to no mask.

● Additionally, the investigators looked at contextual considerations, and based on 24 studies, found that physical distancing, use of face masks and eye protection are broadly considered acceptable and feasible. Contextual challenges included discomfort, concerns for finite resources (decreased equity), less clear speech/communication, and perceived reduced empathy of care providers. Several implications for policy include:
  ○ Transmission: risk for infection is highly dependent on distance to the individual infected and the type of face mask and eye protection worn.
  ○ Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI)s: current policies of at least 1 m distance between individuals associated with a large protective effect.
  ○ No intervention alone affords complete protection from infection; optimum approach requires risk assessment and contextual considerations (e.g. discomfort, concerns for finite resources).

References

New Communication Materials

- A new ‘Behind the Scenes’ video on helping countries with COVID-19 testing was finalized and shared via multiple WPRO channels including YouTube, FB and Twitter.

Key Information and Announcements

Finance and Administration

- The total deployment of personnel has increased to 148 experts (staff and non-staff), 69 of these were deployed to Country Offices. The number of active deployments in Country Offices remains at 17. This is due to limited operating commercial flights, existing travel restrictions and frequent flight cancellation.

Health Service Delivery

Community Engagement

- The community engagement team at WPRO collaborated with the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) team and the Risk Communications team on a poster demonstrating hand-hygiene alternatives for community engagement activities (such as door-to-door visits, activities in health facilities or via community health workers) to educate on alternatives and jointly identify appropriate solutions that enable good hand hygiene.
• WPRO Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and Clinical Management team have provided IPC and clinical management virtual consultation with Bach Mai Hospital, Viet Nam. An Information Note on Hand Hygiene in Community Settings was published online.
• IPC and Clinical Management team conducted the eighth Regional IPC network webinar on “IPC in Dental/Oral Health” by Kylie Robb, Australia, with 200 participants.
• WPRO ICP and Clinical Management team presented WPRO IPC activities and strategy to the WASH regional network meeting.

Laboratory
• WPRO, in collaboration with WHO Headquarters in Geneva and WHO South East-Asian Regional Office conducted a COVID-19 Lab Biosafety Webinar on 3 June 2020.

Mental Health
• Implementation of the second week of the regional communication plan on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) has continued, addressing emerging mental health conditions (e.g. depression, anxiety, suicidality) and decompensation of people living with mental disorders.

Information and Planning

Surveillance
• Information and Planning pillar is revising the regional dashboard and aims to include sub-national data on the epidemiology and healthcare capacity of all countries / 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.
• The Information and Planning team continue to support implementation of Go.Data in member states.

International Health Regulations (IHR) and Border Measures
• The International Health Regulations (IHR) sub-team continues to work with HQ for finalization of international travel recommendations and will update international travel measures for inclusion in Regional Dashboard.

Operations Support and Logistics (OSL)
• The Operations Support and Logistics team have completed the distribution of 2,175 Fingerpulse oximeters throughout the Region.

Partner Coordination
• The Partner Coordination pillar presented the COVID-19 Partners Platform to partners via the OCHA-WHO COVID-19 working group.
• Partner Platform utilization is provided below:
  o Twelve countries have uploaded their national plans (3 costed).
  o Four countries have uploaded multiagency plans (2 costed).
  o Two countries have uploaded WCO budgets (1 costed).
Twenty-one countries have appointed country administrators.

Resource gaps have been filled by three countries.

**Strategic Communication**

- The webinar on communicating the new normal phase 2 was attended by risk communication and community engagement focal points from Country Offices and Ministries of Health.
- The scheduled bi-weekly update with recent findings on perceptions and behaviours gathered through our social listening activities (including social media monitoring, media monitoring, surveys and polls) was shared with Country Offices to inform their communication and community engagement activities and the broader COVID-19 response.
- A new series of editable materials including the new normal Infographics and a [video with the grounding technique for mental health](#) were shared with country offices for their use and distribution across a variety of communication channels.
- A social media plan for the upcoming [World Food Safety Day](#) was developed and shared with the regional communication network. The plan includes specific recommendations for grocery shopping and cooking to stay safe from COVID-19.
- A new comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) dashboard for WPRO COVID-19 communications has been completed with key performance indicators from January to May 2020.
- A new animation on the importance of continuing vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic was finalized and posted as an ad on Facebook, targeting people across multiple countries in the region.
- To date, our promoted FB posts have reached a total of more than 600 million people across the region.
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
External Situation Report #6
10 June 2020
Period of Report: 3 June 2020 to 9 June 2020 as of 10 June 2020, 10:00 (GMT+10)