Weekly Situation Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) encourages countries to carefully monitor key indicators for signs of COVID-19 transmission and to focus efforts on reducing participation in high-transmission environments as Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) are lifted.

Key Highlights

- New cases of COVID-19 were reported in 12 Western Pacific Region (WPR) countries / areas within the past seven days (Australia 80, Cambodia 2, Guam 6, Japan 377, Malaysia 169, Mongolia 3, New Zealand 2, Philippines 3,789, Republic of Korea 296, Singapore 2,455, Viet Nam 3, China 226).

- Seven countries / areas in the WPR have reported no new cases within the past seven days (Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, French Polynesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Papua New Guinea).

- WPRO is working on a strategy to engage the network of more than 190 WHO Collaborating Centres, located in 10 Member States in the Western Pacific Region, in the COVID-19 response. Collaborating Centres support WHO’s programmatic mandate at country, regional and global levels and are indispensable partners in advancing WHO technical work.

### Epi Update COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Updates</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>7,408</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries / areas reporting cases in the past 7 days</td>
<td>Past 7 days</td>
<td>Past 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>200,586</td>
<td>7,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries / areas reporting ZERO cases for more than 7 days</td>
<td>Cumulative cases</td>
<td>Cumulative deaths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Admin & HR Deployments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total deployments supporting COVID-19</th>
<th>Supporting Country Offices</th>
<th>Deployed to Country Offices</th>
<th>Supporting remotely</th>
<th>Working in WPRO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supplies & Logistics

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health workers shipped to 21 countries (as of 17 June 2020)

- Surgical Masks: 2,108,050
- Particulate Respirators: 62,995
- Medical Gowns: 51,282
- Goggles: 19,877
- Face Shields: 14,545
- Bottles (100mL) Alcohol-Based Hand Rub: 15,212
- Pairs of Gloves: 880,500
- Laboratory Tests Shipped: 177,312
Weekly Situation Updates

- In the WPR, 19 countries / areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 10 and 16 June 2020, a total of 7,408 cases with 107 deaths have been reported, for a cumulative 200,586 cases with 7,239 deaths (Proportion of Fatal Cases (PFC) 3.6%) as of 17 June 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries and areas in WPR have identified imported cases or localized community transmission and have not seen large-scale community transmission. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases.

- After 56 days of no reported cases in Beijing, China, one case with no known travel history or contact with a case was reported on 11 June 2020. As of 17 June, 149 confirmed cases have been linked from five provinces: Beijing (92%), Liaoning, Hebei, Sichuan and Zhejiang. Initial cases were identified at fever clinics, and most cases are linked to the Xinfadi Market in Beijing. Over 355,000 people in Beijing have been tested by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) since the cluster was detected.

- Globally, as of 16 June 2020, 10:00 CEST, 7,941,791 COVID-19 cases with 434,796 deaths have been reported in 215 countries/states/territories (5.5% PFC). While the number of new cases in the WHO European Region (EURO) is decreasing, a continued increase has been noted in the WHO African Region (AFRO), Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO), South-East Asian Region (SEARO) and Americas Region (AMRO) (outside the United States).

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 10 to 16 June 2020, as of 17 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10).

1-Imported cases—cases reported in the past 28 days are imported or linked to importation within 3 generations, and there are no clear signals of local transmission; 2-Localized community transmission—cases reported in the past 28 days are localized and cannot be linked to importations, though most are linked to a cluster, and there are no clear signals of large-scale community transmission; 3-Large-scale community transmission—most cases reported in the past 28 days have no known link to a cluster and are spread across the area, and there are clear signals of increasing transmission and severe outcomes.
Figure 2. Current selected NPIs in countries, territories or areas due to COVID-19, covering the period from 10 to 16 June 2020, as of 17 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10)

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries / areas >5000 cases, covering the period from 10 to 16 June 2020, as of 17 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10)

The epidemic curves for merging countries that exceed 5000 and 10000 cases are shown. Details of the epidemic curves for each country are included in the map. Countries or territories that are yet to be confirmed are marked with an asterisk.

Travel restrictions, school closures, and mask wearing.
Figure 4. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries/areas <5000 cases, covering the period from 10 to 16 June 2020, as of 17 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10) (GMT+8)

Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 10 to 16 June 2020, as of 17 June 2020 10:00 (GMT+10) (n=200,586)

<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>84,867</td>
<td>4,645</td>
<td>26.7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7,347</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brunei</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Guam</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>16.0</td>
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<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>8,505</td>
<td>121</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>197</td>
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<td>-0.9</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Mariana Islands</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>-1.0</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>40,969</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Information and Announcements

Finance and Administration

● WHO WPRO recruited three new experts to support the response, bringing the total deployments to 149.
● Frequent flight cancellations and rapid changes in travel schedules continue to pose a challenge to our deployment efforts. A number of airlines have announced unavailability of flights until the end of July, including Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Papua New Guinea. The team continues to explore other options for alternative routes.

Health Service Delivery

Health Systems

● WHO provided technical input to the government of Papua New Guinea regarding their new 2020 National Pandemic Act, which was passed on 12 June 2020. The law intends to support the government in their response to COVID-19, following the State of Emergency period which ends on 16 June 2020. The law aims to address future public health emergencies through a range of provisions, including in relation to government administration.

Science and Research

● WHO WPRO conducted a webinar entitled “Faecal Shedding of and Environmental Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2”.
● WHO WPRO participated in the Head Quarters (HQ) Guidance Review Committee for COVID 19 meetings to review 31 WHO publications.
● In the past week, 23 COVID-19 publications have been published to the WHO WPRO Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (WPRO IRIS). Five are in the pipeline for publication and five publications are in development by technical units.
● Literature on four briefing notes have been updated:
  o Asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic COVID-19 infection
  o Transmissibility of COVID-19 in close contacts in households and workplaces
  o Saliva as a diagnostic specimen
  o Positive PCR results in recovered and discharged COVID-19 patients.

Community Engagement

● Interim guidance “Preparing for COVID-19 : Guidance for Pacific Islands and areas in the WHO Western Pacific Region” was published online, providing guidance on how to care for and protect vulnerable populations from COVID-19 in the WPR.
● A webinar entitled ‘Setting a gold standard for community engagement in the Western Pacific’ was held with the risk communications team on 17 June for community engagement and risk communication focal points in the region.
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Clinical Management

- A guidance note on "Considerations for community hand hygiene practices in low resource situations" along with a visual poster entitled "Handwashing in low resource settings" were published on WHO's website and distributed to all Country Office focal points.
- The ninth weekly regional IPC network webinar entitled “Occupational Health and Safety” was conducted by Dr Ria Fajorda with over 150 participants.
- The inaugural virtual meeting with IPC and Clinical Management Country Office focal points was held to update on WPRO activities, understand challenges with COVID-19 and identify areas needing support.

Laboratory

- With technical support from WPRO and the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL), the National Referral Laboratory of Solomon Island has launched Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) for COVID-19.
- 111 Qiagen Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) extraction kits have been distributed to the Philippines, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Mongolia, Brunei and the Solomon Islands.

Mental Health

- The regional communication plan on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support addressing isolation of confirmed COVID-19 cases and complicated grief continues to be rolled out.

Information and Planning

Surveillance

- The Western Pacific Regional COVID-19 dashboard is being revised 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.

International Health Regulations and Border Measures

- The IHR sub-team will work with the NPIs team and the WPRO Information and Planning team to include actions on the use of contact tracing, multi-source surveillance, and sharing of information between countries to allow for decision making in opening up borders.
- International travel measures are being updated for the global Event Information Site as well as the Western Pacific Regional COVID-19 dashboard.

Operations Support and Logistics

- WHO WPRO is making arrangements to receive additional PPE procured from Viet Nam to supplement the Regional stockpile, ensuring the capacity to rapidly dispatch items within the region as required.

Partner Coordination
WPRO continues to support the Steering Committee of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network with representation and active participation in the latest steering committee meeting.

New Communication Materials

- "Handwashing in low resource settings" is possible using alternatives to running water and soap.
Strategic Communication

- WPRO continues to engage Country Offices and their government counterparts through webinars to strengthen their capacity in strategic communication. A webinar is planned on how to communicate critical public health and safety risks to leadership (in collaboration with B&S Europe).
- WPRO engaged in partnership building activities to support the implementation of the digital community engagement strategy that will be rolled out in the region.
- The WPRO social listening tool has been utilized by the Regional Office and Country Offices to gather listening data and insights into public behaviour changes when transitioning to a ‘new normal’. This data informs communication and community engagement activities as well as the broader response to COVID-19.
- The following communications products have been produced and published by WPRO office: Mental Health & Children animation, Stigma & Discrimination animation, Handwashing in low resource settings poster, Stay Healthy in the Workplace. The updated guidance on masks from WHO Head Quarters (including recommendations on fabric/non-medical masks for public use) has been shared with the regional communication network.
- A snapshot of the initial results from the COVID-19 Communications Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework for the period of January 2020 to May 2020 was presented at the IMST meeting on 8 June 2020.
- Planning for the next phase of using Facebook ads to distribute information on COVID-19 to affected populations has been done in coordination with Country Offices, focusing on adapting the ‘New Normal’ content for local contexts.
- “Defending the Pacific” was published highlighting WPRO efforts in engaging communities in the Pacific to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.