Overall strategy

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 14 Western Pacific Region countries or areas within the past seven days (Australia 342, Cambodia 11, China 134, French Polynesia 2, Guam 34, Japan 699, Malaysia 49, Mongolia 5, New Zealand 12, Papua New Guinea 2, Philippines 5 689, Republic of Korea 315, Singapore 1 475 and Viet Nam 6).
- Five countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region have reported no new cases within the past seven days (Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, New Caledonia and Northern Mariana Islands).
- The Federated States of Micronesia are conducting an operational readiness assessment in preparation for the repatriation of citizens to its island states. They are delivering table-top and field exercises focused on repatriation and easing lockdown measures.
- Vanuatu delivered a four-part field simulation exercise focusing on COVID-19 case management protocols, including the management of persons in quarantine, severe patients, paediatric cases, and management and transport of the deceased.

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<th>Epi update</th>
<th>COVID-19</th>
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<th>Cases</th>
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<td>Countries or areas reporting ZERO cases for more than 7 days</td>
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<td>Currently supporting remotely</td>
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<th>Supplies and logistics</th>
<th>Personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers shipped to 21 countries or areas (as of 1 July 2020)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 108 050 surgical masks 62 995 particulate respirators 51 282 medical gowns 19 877 goggles 14 545 face shields 15 212 bottles (100mL) alcohol-based hand rub 880 500 pairs of gloves 177 312 laboratory tests shipped</td>
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Weekly situation updates

- In the Western Pacific Region, 19 countries or areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 24-30 June 2020, a total of 8,775 cases with 95 deaths have been reported, for a cumulative 217,146 cases with 7,453 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 3.4%) as of 1 July 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region have identified imported cases\(^1\) or localized community transmission and have not seen large-scale community transmission. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases reported in the last seven days.

- Globally, as of 30 June 2020, 16:00 (GMT+8), 10,185,374 COVID-19 cases with 503,862 deaths have been reported in 215 countries or areas (4.9% PFC). While the trends in new cases in the WHO European Region and WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region appear to be stable, a continued increase has been noted in countries or areas of the WHO African Region, South-East Asian Region and Americas Region (outside the United States).

Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 24-30 June 2020, as of 1 July 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

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1 No cases—no cases detected and no clear signals of transmission for at least 28 days (or two incubation periods); 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 non-pharmaceutical interventions in countries or areas due to COVID-19, covering the period from 24-30 June 2020, as of 1 July 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas >5,000 cases, covering the period from 24-30 June 2020, as of 1 July 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
External Situation Report #9
1 July 2020
Period of Report: 24 June 2020 to 30 June 2020 as of 1 July 2020, 10:00 (GMT+10)

Figure 4. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas <5 000 cases, covering the period from 24-30 June 2020, as of 1 July 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 24-30 June 2020, as of 1 July 2020 10:00 (GMT+8) (n=217 146)
New guidance

- It is crucial to recognize that adherence to WHO recommendations developed for the general population may not be feasible for people living in challenging circumstances or with limited resources. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, WHO has developed the interim guidance “Actions for consideration in the care and protection of vulnerable population groups for COVID-19”. This guidance outlines how best to support vulnerable populations to prevent, prepare for and respond to possible community transmission of COVID-19. Vulnerable populations addressed in this guidance include: people experiencing homelessness; people living in overcrowded housing, collective sites and slums; migrant workers; refugees; people with disabilities; people living in closed facilities; people living in remote locations; and, people living in poverty and extreme poverty.

New science

Therapeutics

- Statins are lipid-lowering therapeutics with favourable anti-inflammatory profiles and have been proposed as an adjunct therapy for COVID-19. However, statins may increase the risk of SARS-CoV-2 viral entry by inducing angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) expression. A recent retrospective study (1) was conducted on 13,981 patients with COVID-19 in Hubei Province, China, among which 1,219 received statins. Based on a mixed-effect Cox model after propensity score matching, the study found that the risk for 28-day all-cause mortality was 5.2% and 9.4% (95% Confidence Interval; \( p = 0.001 \)) in the matched statin and non-statin groups, respectively, with an adjusted hazard ratio of 0.58. The statin use-associated lower risk of mortality was also observed in the Cox time-varying model and marginal structural model analysis. These results give support for the completion of ongoing prospective studies and randomized controlled trials involving statin treatment for COVID-19, which are needed to further validate the utility of this class of drugs to combat the mortality of this pandemic.

Non-pharmaceutical interventions

- Governments worldwide have implemented countless policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This study (2) presents an initial public release of a large hand-coded dataset of over 13,000 policy announcements across more than 195 countries. The dataset is updated daily with a five-day lag for validity checking. The authors document policies across numerous dimensions, including the type of policy, national versus subnational enforcement, the specific human group and geographical region targeted by the policy, and the time frame within which each policy is implemented. The authors further analyse the dataset using a Bayesian measurement model, which shows the quick acceleration of the adoption of costly policies across countries beginning in mid-March 2020 through 24 May 2020. These data will be instrumental for helping policymakers and researchers assess, among other objectives, how effective different policies are in addressing the spread and health outcomes of COVID-19.

References


New communications materials

HOW TO DILUTE AND USE BLEACH

**WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**
When preparing and using diluted bleach
- goggles or face shield
- long sleeve shirt & covered legs
- gloves
- apron
- closed shoes

**PREPARE 0.5% BLEACH SOLUTION**
For blood/bodily fluid spills disinfection
- 1 part 5% bleach
- 9 parts water
- = 0.5% bleach

**PREPARE 0.1% BLEACH SOLUTION**
A more diluted bleach solution is suitable for disinfecting other surfaces
- 1 part 0.5% bleach
- 4 parts water
- = 0.1% bleach

**DO NOT** store diluted bleach in direct sunlight.

**Prepare solution in a well-ventilated area.**

**Prepare new daily bleach solution in a container that is clean and dry (e.g. a bucket).**

**Label bucket with concentration, date and time when it was made. Cover with a lid.**

**DO NOT** use mixed solutions for more than 24 hours. They are no longer effective.

**Clean surfaces first with detergent and water before disinfecting with bleach solution.**

**DO NOT** spray detergent or diluted bleach directly onto surface, apply with a cloth or paper towel to protect the user.
Key information and announcements

Finance and administration

- WHO’s total deployment of experts supporting COVID-19 response in the Western Pacific Region has increased to 151. Due to flight restrictions the number of country deployments remains at 71. Rapid changes in travel restrictions and frequent flight cancellations continue to pose a challenge to our deployment efforts, however WHO continue to explore options for alternative arrangements and travel routes.

Health service delivery

- WHO continues to support the procurement of COVID-19 reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction reagents for testing of influenza like illness and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) in Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia and the Philippines.

Information and planning

- The COVID-19 Situation in WHO – Western Pacific Regional Dashboard is now available with the latest, up-to-date information on confirmed cases and deaths to the sub-national level, the latest travel measures as well as additional links to COVID-19 situation reports and resources.

Partner coordination

- The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific has commenced the piloting of the ‘ReportHub’ tool, starting with the Health Cluster partners in the WHO Country Office of the Philippines. ReportHub is an online project reporting system for partners that provides monitoring on the locations and indicators of activities in real-time. Two workshops will be held where Health Cluster partners of the Philippines will review the system and provide feedback on activities and indicators. ReportHub will support partners with systematic reporting of activities for the mapping of operational presence in support of COVID-19 response efforts.

Strategic communication

- The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific supported the third regional webinar entitled “Communicating critical public health and safety risks to leadership”, initiated by the Chemical, Biological, Radio Nuclear Centres of Excellence (CBRN CoE), Regional Secretariat for South East Asia. The webinar was dedicated to sharing experience and knowledge on the subject of COVID-19 and was facilitated by the communication staff at the WHO Country Office of Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

- The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific is preparing for a campaign which will recruit COVID-19 champions from across the region to help their own communities find solutions to challenges caused by the pandemic. The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific is looking for new partners who would like to be involved in the campaign through their own channels.

- New materials have been produced for sharing with WHO Country Offices, including How to dilute and use bleach at home, How to dilute and use bleach in a healthcare facility, and Visitor do’s and don’ts at the healthcare facility.