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, to respond to them quickly and to focus efforts on reducing participation in high-transmission environments.

Key highlights

- New cases of COVID-19 were reported in 16 Western Pacific Region countries or areas within the past seven days (Australia 2 984, Brunei Darussalam 1, Cambodia 25, China 762, French Polynesia 48, Guam 59, Japan 9 081, Republic of Korea 258, Malaysia 101, New Caledonia 1, New Zealand 5, Northern Mariana Islands 3, Papua New Guinea 100, Philippines 26 945, Singapore 2 007, Viet Nam 194).

- Three countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region have reported no new cases within the past seven days (Fiji, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Mongolia).

### Epi update

**COVID-19**

- **Update**: 16 countries or areas reporting cases in the past 7 days
- **Cases**: 42 574 past 7 days
- **Deaths**: 362 past 7 days
- **Cumulative cases**: 383 739
- **Cumulative deaths**: 8 911

### Deployments

**COVID-19 response**

- **Total deployments**: 167
- **Deployments completed**: 109
- **Actively supporting country offices**: 18
- **Actively supporting regional office**: 17
- **Currently supporting remotely**: 23

### Supplies and logistics

Personal protective equipment for health workers shipped to 21 countries or areas (as of 12 August 2020)

- **Surgical masks**: 2 108 050
- **Particulate respirators**: 62 995
- **Medical gowns**: 51 282
- **Goggles**: 19 877
- **Face shields**: 14 545
- **Alcohol-based hand rub**: 26 212 bottles (100mL)
- **Pairs of gloves**: 880 500
- **Laboratory tests shipped**: 177 312
Weekly situation updates

- In the Western Pacific Region, 19 countries or areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 5 August and 11 August 2020, a total of 42 574 cases with 362 deaths have been reported, for a cumulative 383 739 cases with 8 911 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 2.3%) as of 12 August 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region have identified imported cases or localized community transmission, while Papua New Guinea has assessed large-scale community transmission. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases reported in the last seven days.

- Globally, 19 936 210 COVID-19 cases with 732 499 deaths have been reported in 215 countries or areas (3.7% PFC), as of 11 August 2020, 17:18 (GMT+8). New cases are continuing to rise in countries or areas of WHO South-East Asian Region and Americas Region (outside the United States), while the trend continues to stabilise in the WHO European Region, and to decrease in the WHO African Region and Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 5 August to 11 August 2020, as of 12 August 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 — public health capacity is reaching its limit, most cases reported in the past 28 days have no known link to a cluster, 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 5 August to 11 August 2020, as of 12 August 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 5 August to 11 August 2020, as of 12 August 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | 12 August 2020 | Period of Report: 5 August 2020 to 11 August 2020 as of 12 August 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8)

Figure 4. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas <5,000 cases, covering the period from 5 August to 11 August 2020, as of 12 August 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 5 August to 11 August 2020, as of 12 August 2020 10:00 (GMT+8) (n=383,739)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country or area</th>
<th>New cases (cumulative)</th>
<th>New deaths (cumulative)</th>
<th>Change in 7-day average</th>
<th>Days since last reported case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>762 (89,444)</td>
<td>16 (4,699)</td>
<td>-66.1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2,984 (21,713)</td>
<td>99 (331)</td>
<td>-63.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>1 (142)</td>
<td>0 (3)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>25 (268)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0 (27)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>48 (112)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>59 (426)</td>
<td>0 (5)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>9,081 (50,210)</td>
<td>37 (1,059)</td>
<td>-21.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
<td>258 (14,714)</td>
<td>3 (305)</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>0 (20)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>101 (9,103)</td>
<td>0 (125)</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>0 (293)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>1 (23)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>5 (1,224)</td>
<td>0 (22)</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mariana Islands</td>
<td>3 (49)</td>
<td>0 (2)</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>100 (214)</td>
<td>1 (3)</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>26,945 (139,538)</td>
<td>197 (2,312)</td>
<td>-282.1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>2,007 (55,353)</td>
<td>0 (27)</td>
<td>-20.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>194 (866)</td>
<td>9 (17)</td>
<td>-4.6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New guidance

- New interim guidance on “Indicators to monitor health-care capacity and utilization for decision-making on COVID-19” provides guidance on a standard set of indicators that can be used to monitor health-capacity and utilization for decision-making for the COVID-19 response. Routine collection and analysis of this data is important to inform preparedness and response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- Three new tools were published this week to support prevention and control of COVID-19 in long term care facilities, including a checklist, a communication toolkit and a self-test and self-care guide for older people during COVID-19. The checklist shares crucial elements facility administrators and staff should consider in preparation for the long-term effects of the pandemic. The communications toolkit shares simplified messages and reminders for infection prevention and control measures critical for the protection of staff, residents, and visitors of facilities. Self-test and self-care guide.

- There are 25 interim guidance and 2 books published (IRIS) to provide information on COVID-19.

New communications materials

Prolonged skin-to-skin contact after birth helps mothers and babies to breastfeed successfully.

WHO calls on health workers and facilities to make sure newborns spend this crucial time with their mothers, even during the #COVID19 pandemic.

Read more.

#WorldBreastfeedingWeek

Facebook
Women with COVID-19 can still breastfeed if they wish to do so. Women should:
- Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand rub, before and after touching the baby
- Wear a medical mask during any contact with the baby
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue
- Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces touched

#WorldBreastfeedingWeek
#WBW2020
Facebook

Key information and announcements

Finance and administration
- To date, there has now been 167 total deployments of experts to support the regional COVID-19 response since the onset of the pandemic. Of these, there are currently 17 active deployments providing support to seven WHO Country Offices, while there are still experts providing remote support until travel restrictions ease.

Health service delivery
- A meeting with the Regional Community Engagement Network was hosted to share information on challenges, changes and lessons learned in the pandemic. The discussion focused on a revision of the global Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Strategy for COVID-19 response, practical tools, and the creation of a Western Pacific Region tailored Community Engagement toolkit.
- The third series of WPRO Clinical Management webinars was held 3 August to 7 August 2020. Expert speakers from across the region shared their knowledge and expertise, with each webinar attracting over 500 attendees. The webinars include clinical-centered topics such as the update of clinical management and therapeutics, the use of oxygen therapy, and co-infections and the use of
antimicrobials during COVID-19. In addition, it also addressed important issues on infection and prevention control measures for patient safety and for healthcare workers, and the role of primary and community care in response to COVID-19. The presentation by experts can be accessed here.

- In Fiji, the 17th weekly regional Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) network webinar was hosted with the topic of "Strengthening IPC programs during and beyond COVID-19".
- Polymerase Chain Reaction reagents and kit supplies were procured and shipped to Viet Nam to address the increase in testing due to resurgence of COVID-19.

Information and planning

- The Western Pacific Regional COVID-19 Dashboard has been updated with information on Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions, epidemiology, and health-care capacity utilization from Member States' Ministries of Health and WHO Country Office Joint Situational Report Data.
- WHO invites Member States to continue to participate in the dashboard by sharing their assessments and relevant information. For all the latest and up-to-date information on the COVID-19 response in the region, visit the COVID-19 Situation in WHO – Western Pacific Regional Dashboard.

Operations support and logistics

- The COVID-19 Supply Chain System is starting to dispatch important quantities of personal protection equipment (PPE) and biomedical equipment to Member States.
- This week, 150 intensive care oxygen concentrators and PPE for selected Member States arrived.
- The Jack Ma Foundation is starting to ship out a donation of bulk quantities of face masks primarily to Pacific Island Countries and areas. WPF has been contracted to manage the flight and logistics arrangements.

Partner coordination

- An integral part of the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies Technical Advisory Group (APSED TAG) meetings, The Partners Forum, was held on 7 August 2020. This virtual meeting brought together West Pacific Region partners to update them on the COVID-19 pandemic and response in the region, brief them on APSED TAG 2020 draft recommendations, and to identify and discuss the role partners can play in preparing and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and future health security threats. There were two TAG members and nine partners (including United Nations agencies, International Organizations and donors) in attendance.

Strategic communication

- WPRO is strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) efforts to assess the impact of the communication activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Communication support was provided to the WHO Country Office in the Philippines to plan for and engage the business sector and workplaces. Information, education and communication materials are being adapted and disseminated among employers and employees through Local Government Unit (LGUs), organizations, business networks and private sector companies. Guidance was shared for workplaces to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions covering personal protective measures
(e.g. hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and face masks); environmental measures (e.g. surface and object cleaning, and other environmental measures); and social distancing measures (e.g. contact tracing, isolation of sick individuals, quarantine of exposed individuals).

- A new story was published on the WPRO website entitled “Skin-to-skin contact helps newborns breastfeed”. It recommended that skin-to-skin contact be continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the benefits substantially outweigh the potential risks of transmission and illness associated with the disease.