Overall strategy

The World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) encourages countries to improve detection of COVID-19 transmission, to respond to detection with quick and targeted measures, and to focus efforts on preventing transmission among the vulnerable.

Key highlights

- New cases of COVID-19 were reported in 16 Western Pacific Region (WPR) countries or areas within the past seven days (Australia 111, Cambodia 3, China 147, French Polynesia 562, Guam 375, Japan 3 533, Republic of Korea 541, Malaysia 2 369, Mongolia 2, New Zealand 25, Northern Mariana Islands 5, Papua New Guinea 7, Philippines 17 530, Singapore 88, Solomon Islands 1 and Viet Nam 4).
- Four countries or areas in the WPR which had reported cases in the past have reported no new cases within the past seven days (Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and New Caledonia).
- American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna have not reported a case to date.

Epi update

COVID-19 Member States
16 countries or areas reporting cases in the past 7 days
19 countries or areas reporting ZERO cases for more than 7 days
Cases
23 303 past 7 days
636 576 cumulative cases
Deaths
500 past 7 days
13 842 cumulative deaths

Deployments

COVID-19 response
229 total deployments
135 deployments completed
43 actively supporting country offices
22 actively supporting regional office
29 currently supporting remotely

Supplies and logistics

Personal protective equipment for health workers shipped to 21 countries or areas (as of 7 October 2020)

- 16 470 700 surgical masks
- 1 614 715 particulate respirators
- 387 129 medical gowns
- 289 717 goggles
- 709 560 face shields
- 20 379 bottles (100mL) alcohol-based hand rub
- 892 201 pairs of gloves
- 333 792 laboratory tests shipped
**Weekly situation updates**

- In the WPR, 20 countries/areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 30 September and 6 October 2020, a total of 25,303 cases with 500 deaths have been reported, for a cumulative 636,576 cases with 13,842 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 2.2%) as of 7 October 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries or areas in the WPR have identified imported cases or localized community transmission. Papua New Guinea is believed to have large-scale community transmission, while in the Philippines there is community transmission in all regions with three regions - National Capital Region, Region 3, and Region 4A – showing higher transmission intensity and indications of widespread community transmission. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases reported in the last seven days.

- Globally, 35,347,404 COVID-19 cases with 1,039,406 deaths have been reported in 217 countries or areas (2.9% PFC) as of 5 October 20:00 CEST. New cases continue to increase in countries or areas of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region and European Region, while the trend continues to be stable in the Region of the Americas (outside the United States) and decrease in the African Region and the South-East Asian Region.

**Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 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 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with >5 000 cases, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Excluding clinically-diagnosed cases in China
Figure 4. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with <5 000 cases, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8) (n = 636 576)

<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>American Samoa</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>111 (27 174)</td>
<td>13 (895)</td>
<td>-1.43</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>0 (146)</td>
<td>0 (3)</td>
<td>-0.14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>3 (280)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>147 (91 188)</td>
<td>0 (4 746)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0 (32)</td>
<td>0 (2)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td>562 (2 290)</td>
<td>2 (9)</td>
<td>32.57</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>375 (2 818)</td>
<td>8 (55)</td>
<td>17.43</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>3 533 (86 543)</td>
<td>41 (1 605)</td>
<td>41.57</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
<td>541 (24 353)</td>
<td>12 (425)</td>
<td>-7.86</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>0 (23)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>2 369 (13 504)</td>
<td>7 (141)</td>
<td>227.43</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands, Republic of the</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micronesia, Federal States of</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>2 (315)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### New science

- A recent genetic association study (2) identified a gene cluster on chromosome 3 as a risk locus for respiratory failure upon SARS-CoV-2 infection. This study comprising 3 199 hospitalized COVID-19 patients and controls found that the cluster is the major genetic risk factor for severe SARS-CoV-2 infection and hospitalization (COVID-19 Host Genetics Initiative). The authors showed that the risk is conferred by a genomic segment of ~50 kb that is inherited from Neanderthals and is carried by ~50% of people in South Asia and ~16% of people in Europe today.

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2 References
New communications materials
Key information and announcements

Finance and administration

- A total of 229 deployments have been made since the onset of pandemic, 44 of which were added this week. At present, 43 experts are supporting WHO Country Offices, 22 experts are actively supporting the WHO Regional Office, and 29 experts continue to provide remote support.

- Deployments made to WHO Country Offices include one epidemiologist to support China; one Global Outbreak and Alert Response Network (GOARN) epidemiologist, one data management expert, one risk communications expert, and one senior level staff as Officer-in-Charge to support Papua New Guinea.

Health service delivery

Health Systems

- WHO WPRO has held a fiscal space working group meeting with the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for collaboration on debt re-negotiation and budgeting for health systems response for COVID-19 vaccination. The next steps in the collaboration include further analysis of COVID-19 influences on government revenue; health ministries per capita health expenditures; debt load; the importance of prioritizing the health sector for funding; and opportunities for deeper engagement with WB, ADB, IMF and Ministries of Finance.

Mental Health

- On 5 October 2020, WHO WPRO launched a report on The impact of COVID-19 on mental, neurological and substance use services: results of a rapid assessment including information from 25 participating countries in WPR.

Information and planning

- WHO WPRO has continued the weekly monitoring of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) in Member States across the region. Updated information is available in the WPRO dashboard.

- The national transmission level assessment of Pacific island Countries and Territories, and subnational transmission level assessment of Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Philippines have been added to the WPRO dashboard.

- WHO WPRO and WHO Headquarters are supporting the implementation of Go.Data software in 11 countries and areas in the WPR. This outbreak investigation tool assists COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing.
Operations support and logistics

- WHO WPRO has successfully delivered 300,000 doses of seasonal influenza flu vaccine from Brazil to Mongolia, which saw logistical challenges that involved flying the vaccines 22,000 km through five airports and took six days.
- WHO WPRO has delivered controls for GeneXpert to Tokelau via Samoa.
- WHO WPRO continues to collect 200 Cepheid GeneXpert kits per week from the United States of America for the Pacific. Around 4,480 kits have been received to date, which is 46.4% of the total order.

Partner coordination

- The 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for the Western Pacific is being held virtually from 6 to 9 October. The RC brings Member States together to make key policy decisions for the Region and guide WHO’s Secretariat functions. A day prior to the RC meeting, a briefing with partners was held to provide an overview of the Regional Committee and the technical agenda items that were to be discussed during the week. There were approximately 250 partners in attendance at the Partners’ Briefing.

Strategic communication

- A new content package related to strengthening participation in contact tracing has been prepared and shared with WHO Country Offices.