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 143, Cambodia 3, China 200, French Polynesia 961, Guam 448, Japan 3 597, Republic of Korea 536, Malaysia 3 376, Mongolia 5, New Zealand 13, Northern Mariana Islands 2, Papua New Guinea 24, Philippines 17 880, Singapore 54, Solomon Islands 1 and Viet Nam 15).

- 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Epi update COVID-19</th>
<th>Member States</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 countries or areas reporting cases in the past 7 days</td>
<td>27258 past 7 days</td>
<td>588 past 7 days</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 countries or areas reporting ZERO cases for more than 7 days</td>
<td>663834 cumulative cases</td>
<td>14430 cumulative deaths</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Deployments COVID-19 response</th>
<th>Total deployments</th>
<th>Deployments completed</th>
<th>Actively supporting country offices</th>
<th>Actively supporting regional office</th>
<th>Currently supporting remotely</th>
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<td>242</td>
<td>139</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies and logistics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Personal protective equipment for health workers shipped to 21 countries or areas (as of 14 October 2020)</td>
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</table>

- 16 368 300 surgical masks
- 1 615 285 particulate respirators
- 387 209 medical gowns
- 289 717 goggles
- 707 880 face shields
- 20 373 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 7 October and 13 October 2020, a total of 27,258 cases with 588 deaths have been reported, for a cumulative 663,834 cases with 14,430 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 2.2%) as of 14 October 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries or areas in the WPR have identified imported cases or localized community transmission. While most regions in the Philippines are considered to be in community transmission, three regions indicate the presence of widespread transmission: National Capital Region, Region 3, and Region 4A. Evidence suggests that Papua New Guinea is also in large-scale community transmission, however, due to the lack of testing, it is difficult to evaluate the extent of the transmission. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases reported in the last seven days.

- Globally, 37,704,153 COVID-19 cases with 1,079,029 deaths have been reported in 217 countries or areas (2.9% PFC) as of 13 October 17:06 CEST. New cases continue to increase in countries or areas of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, African Region and European Region, while the trend continues to be stable in the Region of Americas (outside the United States) and is decreasing in the South-East Asian Region.

Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 7 October to 13 October 2020, as of 14 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 7 October to 13 October 2020, as of 14 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 7 October to 13 October 2020, as of 14 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases in 7 countries with large number of cases in WPR

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 7 October to 13 October 2020, as of 14 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 7 October to 13 October 2020, as of 14 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8) (n = 663 834)
### New guidance

- A new interim guidance was published this week entitled “Support for Rehabilitation Self-Management after COVID-19-Related Illness”. This leaflet provides basic exercises and advice for adults who have been severely unwell and admitted to the hospital with COVID-19. It provides information on managing breathlessness, problems with your voice, eating, drinking, and swallowing, problems with attention, memory, and thinking clearly, activities of daily living, stress and problems with mood, how to exercise after leaving hospital and also provides guidance on when to contact a healthcare professional.
New science

- The COVID-19 pandemic is straining public health systems worldwide, and major non-pharmaceutical interventions have been implemented to slow its spread. In a study\(^2\) published this October, crowding and the shape of COVID-19 epidemics has been explored by looking at empirical evidence on the effect of key geographic factors on local epidemic transmission. The authors state that it is critical to view non-pharmaceutical interventions in the perspective of crowding. Analysis of highly resolved spatial variables in cities together with case count data was performed to investigate the role of climate, urbanization and variation in interventions. Results of the study have shown that the degree to which cases of COVID-19 are compressed into a short period of time (described as the "peakedness of the epidemic") is strongly shaped by population aggregation and heterogeneity. Epidemics in crowded cities were seen to be more spread over time, and also have larger total attack rates than less populated cities. Authors predict that crowded cities worldwide could experience more prolonged epidemics.

New communications materials

Contact tracing helps us all!
When a person is infected with #COVID19, everyone who may have been in contact with that person is identified and informed.

This helps stop the spread of the virus.

We are all safer when COVID-19 is stopped in its tracks.

Facebook
Twitter

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\(^2\) References
Key information and announcements

Finance and administration

- A total of 242 deployments have been made since the onset of pandemic, 13 of which were added this week. At present, 53 experts are supporting WHO Country Offices, 23 experts are actively supporting the WHO Regional Office, and 27 experts continue to provide remote support.

- WHO WPRO continues to provide support to deploy expert consultants in Papua New Guinea. A Global Outbreak and Alert Response Network (GOARN) epidemiologist, a risk communications consultant and a senior staff member are scheduled to travel next week. Recruitment of two clinical management experts is also in progress.

Health service delivery

Health Systems

- Together with Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources (AAAH) Secretariat, WHO Regional Offices for the Western Pacific, South-East Asia and East Mediterranean Regions and many development partners hosted the AAAH webinar on Health Professional Education and Training on 9 October 2020. The webinar presented an opportunity to recognize the educational challenges and novel solutions faced by health professions educators and their students in the context of COVID-19. Lessons learned were shared and gaps in current health education core competency packages were discussed, including how health workforce education and training systems can be adapted for effective public health emergency response.

Mental Health

- This year’s World Mental Health Day, 10 October 2020, came at a time when our daily lives have changed considerably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Investing in mental health, the theme of this year’s campaign, is more important now than it has ever been given the expected increased need for mental health and psychosocial support in the coming months and years. WHO organized a global online advocacy event on mental health. At this event — The Big Event for Mental Health — world leaders, mental health experts and celebrity guests from the WPR joined WHO to tell the world what we can all do to improve our mental health and how we can help make sure that quality mental health care is available to everyone who needs it.
Information and planning

- WHO WPRO has continued the weekly monitoring of non-pharmaceutical interventions 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 have been added to the [WPRO dashboard](#).
- WHO WPRO and Headquarters continue responding to support 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

- The first shipments of a 30 000 kg biomed procurement have arrived into Singapore for consolidation and onward shipping to the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Strategic communication

- WHO WPRO hosted a virtual press-conference with the Regional Director on 6 October 2020 as a part of the 71st session of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Committee Meeting. The opening statement delivered by Dr Takeshi Kasai, along with other material related to the meeting, is available on [WPRO website](#).
- A media release about the opening of the 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) in the Western Pacific was published on the [WPRO website](#).
- WHO Country Office in Lao People’s Democratic Republic has prepared a news release published on the [WPRO website](#) featuring the Minister of Health Associate Professor Dr Bounkong Syhavong and WHO Representative in Lao People’s Democratic Republic Dr Mark Jacobs showcasing the country’s good practices in responding to COVID-19 by frequently communicating to the public and engaging with the communities through trusted leaders like Monks.