

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 89

Data as received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, 18 April 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- No new country/territory/area reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, has released a statement on the transition to a ‘new normal’ during the COVID-19 pandemic, stressing that it must be guided by public health principles. His statement is available [here](#) and it complements new guidance on adjusting public health and social measures, available [here](#).
- Refugees and migrants face the same health risks from COVID-19 as their host populations. WHO has published new guidance, available [here](#), for refugees and migrants to be included in the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- WHO and Global Citizen are joining forces with many of the world’s leading musicians, comedians and humanitarians for the “One World, Together At Home” global special. It will be broadcast/livestream on major social media networks, streaming services, and major television networks worldwide on 18–19 April 2020. Further information and local listings are available on the Global Citizen website [here](#).
- In the ‘Subject in Focus’ below, WHO presents data on COVID-19 cases by age and sex. This data is based on nearly 750 000 WHO case reporting forms received from 113 countries, territories and areas.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Globally

2 160 207 confirmed (85 678)

146 088 deaths (6710)

European Region

1 086 889 confirmed (36 018)

97 201 deaths (3721)

Region of the Americas

784 272 confirmed (40 665)

35 742 deaths (2714)

Western Pacific Region

129 256 confirmed (1661)

5598 deaths (40)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

120 683 confirmed (4859)

5784 deaths (122)

South-East Asia Region

25 291 confirmed (1731)

1134 deaths (83)

African Region

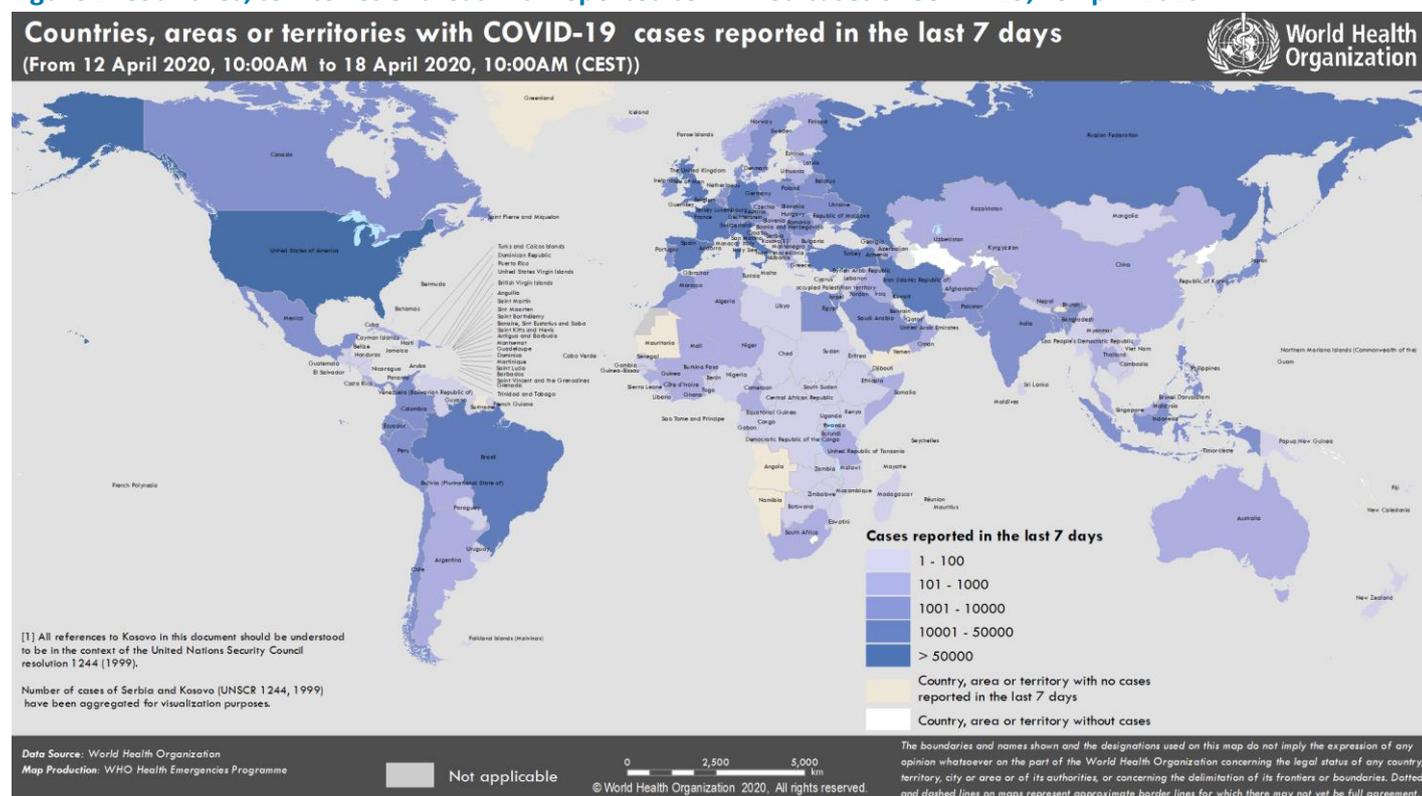
13 104 confirmed (744)

616 deaths (30)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 18 April 2020



SUBJECT IN FOCUS: WHO global case-based surveillance for human infection with coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

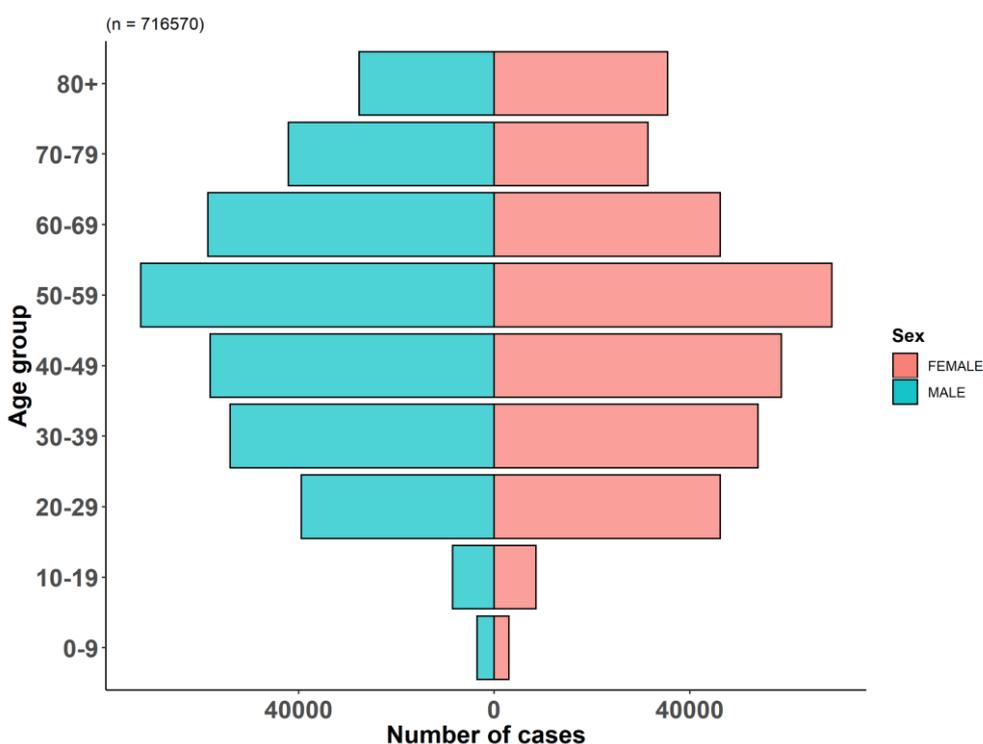
Following the notification of COVID-19 cases among travelers from Wuhan, China in early January, WHO set up a [global surveillance system](#) to gather essential information to monitor the epidemic. Beginning on 26 January, all Member States were requested to immediately report confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 to WHO with a minimal set of information through a standardized [case reporting form](#) (CRF).

As of 13 April, a total of 747 546 confirmed cases were documented via case reporting forms (CRFs) received from 113 countries, territories and areas across five different WHO regions and three international conveyances. The number of cases with a CRF accounts for 44.0% of the confirmed cases reported globally as of 13 April 10 AM. Distribution per region shows that 316 076 (42.3%) of CRFs were reported from the European Region, 415 484 (55.6%) from the Region of the Americas, 10 662 (1.4%) from the Western Pacific Region, 4717 (0.6%) from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 136 (0.02%) from the South-East Asia Region, and none from the Africa Region. An additional 471 CRFs have been submitted from international conveyances. It is important to note that of the cases which are documented with CRFs so far, the United States of America, Italy and Germany account for 74% of all cases in the database. Thus, these data should not be considered representative of all globally confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Distribution by age and sex of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to the WHO case-based surveillance system globally to date

A total of 716 570 CRFs (95.9%) reported information on age and sex. The sex ratio (male to female) among the confirmed cases is 1.03:1, and the median age is 51 (interquartile range, IQR: 36-65) years. For males, the median age is 52 (IQR 37-65) years, and for females 50 (IQR 35-64) years. The sex ratio varies significantly with age in all ranges except 10-19 years. The largest sex ratios (male to female) are observed amongst the 0-9 year (1.16), 60-69 year (1.27:1), and 70-79 year (1.34:1) age groups. Conversely, the lowest sex ratios (i.e. those showing more females than males) are found in the 20-29 year (0.85:1) and 80 years and over (0.78:1) age groups (Figure 2). When cases reported from the United States, Germany and Italy are excluded, the overall sex ratio changes to 0.95:1 (more females than males amongst the cases), while there remains an excess of males in the 0-9, 60-69 and 70-79 year age groups (data not shown).

Figure 2: Distribution by age and sex of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to the WHO case-based surveillance system to date.

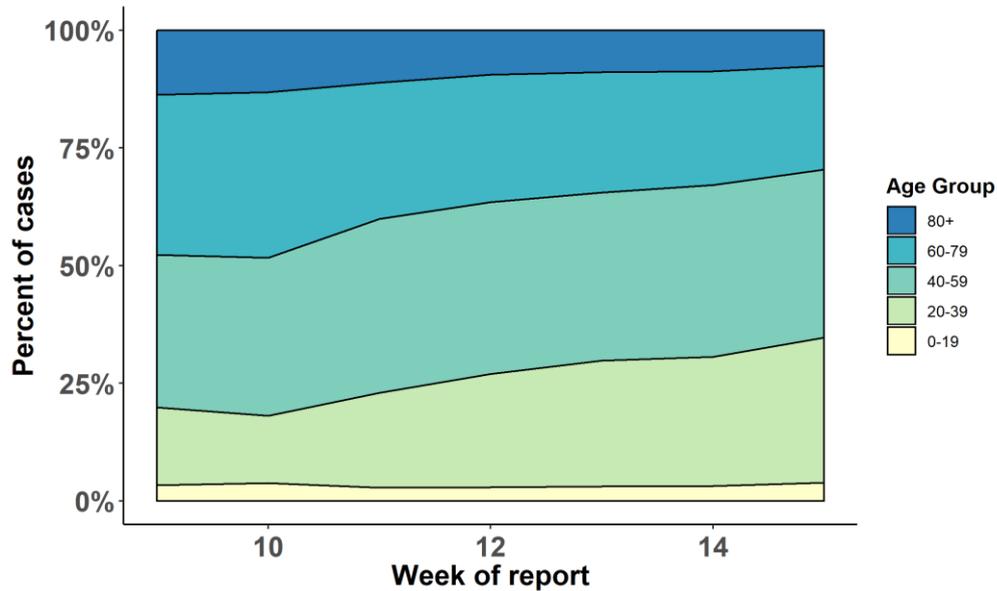


Source: COVID-19 global surveillance database

Distribution by age of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to the WHO case-based surveillance system over time, from 24 February through 13 April, 2020

The age distribution has varied with the progression of the epidemic from 24 February (the week in which sufficient CRFs began to be reported) to the present. As shown in Figure 3, the proportions of cases aged 0-19 years and 40-59 years are stable over time, whilst a steady increase is observed in the proportion of cases aged 20-39 years, concurrent with a proportional decrease in the 60-79 and 80+ years age groups.

Figure 3: Distribution by age of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to the WHO case-based reporting system from 24 February through 13 April, 2020. (n=715 130)



Source: COVID-19 global surveillance database

SURVEILLANCE

Table 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Data as of 18 April 2020*

Reporting Country/ Territory/Area [†]	Total confirmed ‡ cases	Total confirmed new cases	Total deaths	Total new deaths	Transmission classification [§]	Days since last reported case
Western Pacific Region						
China	84180	31	4642	0	Clusters of cases	0
Republic of Korea	10653	18	232	2	Clusters of cases	0
Japan	9795	628	154	6	Clusters of cases	0
Australia	6533	65	67	4	Clusters of cases	0
Philippines	5878	218	387	25	Clusters of cases	0
Malaysia	5251	69	86	2	Clusters of cases	0
Singapore	5050	623	11	1	Clusters of cases	0
New Zealand	1094	8	11	0	Clusters of cases	0
Viet Nam	268	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	1
Brunei Darussalam	136	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	7
Cambodia	122	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	6
Mongolia	31	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	5
Fiji	17	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Papua New Guinea	7	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Territories**						
Guam	135	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	3
French Polynesia	55	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
New Caledonia	18	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	15
Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of the)	14	1	2	0	Pending	0
European Region						
Spain	188068	5252	19478	348	Pending	0
Italy	172434	3493	22747	575	Pending	0
Germany	137439	3609	4110	242	Pending	0
The United Kingdom	108696	5599	14576	847	Pending	0
France	108163	385	18659	760	Pending	0
Turkey	78546	4353	1769	126	Community transmission	0
Russian Federation	36793	4785	313	40	Clusters of cases	0
Belgium	36138	1329	5163	306	Pending	0
Netherlands	30449	1235	3459	144	Pending	0
Switzerland	26997	346	1058	42	Community transmission	0
Portugal	19022	181	657	28	Pending	0
Austria	14603	155	431	21	Pending	0
Ireland	13980	709	530	44	Pending	0
Sweden	13216	676	1400	67	Pending	0

Israel	12855	264	148	8	Pending	0
Poland	8379	461	332	18	Pending	0
Romania	8067	360	400	13	Pending	0
Denmark	7073	194	336	15	Pending	0
Norway	6791	0	136	0	Pending	1
Czechia	6549	116	173	4	Pending	0
Serbia	5690	372	110	7	Pending	0
Ukraine	5106	444	133	8	Community transmission	0
Belarus	4779	575	43	3	Clusters of cases	0
Finland	3489	120	82	7	Pending	0
Luxembourg	3480	36	72	3	Pending	0
Republic of Moldova	2264	110	56	2	Pending	0
Greece	2207	0	105	0	Pending	1
Hungary	1834	71	172	16	Pending	0
Croatia	1814	23	36	1	Pending	0
Iceland	1754	15	8	0	Pending	0
Kazakhstan	1546	66	17	1	Pending	0
Estonia	1459	25	38	2	Pending	0
Uzbekistan	1450	70	4	0	Clusters of cases	0
Azerbaijan	1340	57	15	0	Clusters of cases	0
Slovenia	1304	36	66	5	Pending	0
Lithuania	1239	90	33	1	Pending	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1210	41	44	2	Community transmission	0
Armenia	1201	42	19	1	Clusters of cases	0
North Macedonia	1117	36	49	3	Clusters of cases	0
Slovakia	1049	72	9	1	Pending	0
Bulgaria	846	46	41	3	Pending	0
Cyprus	735	0	17	0	Pending	1
Andorra	703	9	35	1	Community transmission	0
Latvia	682	7	5	0	Pending	0
Albania	548	30	26	0	Clusters of cases	0
Kyrgyzstan	506	17	5	0	Pending	0
San Marino	426	0	38	0	Community transmission	1
Malta	422	10	3	0	Pending	0
Georgia	385	15	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
Montenegro	305	2	5	1	Clusters of cases	0
Monaco	98	5	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Liechtenstein	81	0	1	0	Pending	3
Holy See	8	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	9
Territories**						
Kosovo ^[1]	480	31	12	1	Community transmission	0
Isle of Man	289	31	4	0	Pending	0
Guernsey	234	6	9	1	Pending	0
Jersey	223	4	10	3	Pending	0
Faroe Islands	184	0	0	0	Pending	10

Gibraltar	133	2	0	0	Pending	0
Greenland	11	0	0	0	Pending	12
South-East Asia Region						
India	14378	991	480	43	Clusters of cases	0
Indonesia	5923	407	520	24	Community transmission	0
Thailand	2733	33	47	0	Pending	0
Bangladesh	1838	266	75	15	Pending	0
Sri Lanka	244	6	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Myanmar	94	9	5	1	Clusters of cases	0
Nepal	30	14	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Maldives	28	5	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Timor-Leste	18	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Bhutan	5	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	15
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	79494	1499	4958	89	Community transmission	0
Pakistan	7481	456	143	8	Clusters of cases	0
Saudi Arabia	7142	762	87	4	Clusters of cases	0
United Arab Emirates	6302	477	37	2	Pending	0
Qatar	4663	560	7	0	Pending	0
Egypt	2844	171	205	9	Clusters of cases	0
Morocco	2564	281	135	5	Clusters of cases	0
Bahrain	1744	44	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Kuwait	1658	134	5	2	Clusters of cases	0
Iraq	1482	48	81	1	Clusters of cases	0
Oman	1180	111	6	1	Clusters of cases	0
Afghanistan	908	63	30	0	Clusters of cases	0
Tunisia	864	42	37	0	Community transmission	0
Djibouti	732	141	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
Lebanon	668	5	21	0	Clusters of cases	0
Jordan	407	5	7	0	Clusters of cases	0
Somalia	116	36	5	0	Sporadic cases	0
Libya	49	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	1
Syrian Arab Republic	38	5	2	0	Community transmission	0
Sudan	33	1	6	1	Sporadic cases	0
Yemen	1	0	0	0	Pending	7
Territories**						
occupied Palestinian territory	313	18	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
Region of the Americas						
United States of America	665330	32549	30384	2163	Community transmission	0
Canada	30659	1775	1250	202	Community transmission	0
Brazil	30425	2105	1924	188	Community transmission	0
Peru	13489	2014	300	46	Community transmission	0

Chile	9252	445	116	11	Community transmission	0
Ecuador	8450	225	421	18	Community transmission	0
Mexico	6297	450	486	37	Community transmission	0
Dominican Republic	4126	371	200	4	Community transmission	0
Panama	4016	265	109	6	Community transmission	0
Colombia	3233	128	144	13	Community transmission	0
Argentina	2694	96	122	7	Community transmission	0
Cuba	923	61	31	4	Clusters of cases	0
Costa Rica	642	16	4	0	Clusters of cases	0
Uruguay	502	9	9	0	Clusters of cases	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	465	24	31	2	Clusters of cases	0
Honduras	442	16	41	6	Clusters of cases	0
Guatemala	214	18	7	2	Clusters of cases	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	204	7	9	0	Clusters of cases	0
Paraguay	199	25	8	0	Community transmission	0
El Salvador	177	13	7	1	Clusters of cases	0
Jamaica	143	18	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Trinidad and Tobago	114	0	8	0	Sporadic cases	2
Barbados	75	0	5	0	Clusters of cases	1
Guyana	57	2	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Bahamas	54	1	9	1	Clusters of cases	0
Haiti	43	2	3	0	Clusters of cases	0
Antigua and Barbuda	23	0	2	0	Clusters of cases	4
Belize	18	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	3
Dominica	16	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	7
Saint Lucia	15	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	6
Grenada	14	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	6
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	12	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	7
Suriname	10	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	14
Nicaragua	9	0	1	0	Pending	5
Territories**						
Puerto Rico	1068	25	58	2	Clusters of cases	0
Martinique	159	0	8	0	Clusters of cases	1
Guadeloupe	145	0	8	0	Clusters of cases	3
Aruba	96	1	2	0	Clusters of cases	0
French Guiana	96	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	1
Bermuda	83	2	5	0	Clusters of cases	0
Cayman Islands	61	1	1	0	Clusters of cases	0
Sint Maarten	57	0	9	0	Clusters of cases	1

United States Virgin Islands	51	0	2	1	Clusters of cases	7
Saint Martin	35	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	3
Curaçao	14	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	9
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	11	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	3
Montserrat	11	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	4
Turks and Caicos Islands	11	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Saint Barthélemy	6	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	18
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	5	1	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Anguilla	3	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	14
British Virgin Islands	3	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	17
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	10
African Region						
South Africa	2783	178	50	2	Community transmission	0
Algeria	2418	150	364	16	Community transmission	0
Cameroon	1016	161	21	4	Clusters of cases	0
Côte d'Ivoire	742	54	6	0	Clusters of cases	0
Ghana	641	0	8	0	Clusters of cases	1
Niger	627	18	18	3	Clusters of cases	0
Burkina Faso	547	4	32	0	Clusters of cases	0
Guinea	438	0	1	0	Clusters of cases	1
Nigeria	373	0	11	0	Clusters of cases	2
Senegal	342	7	3	1	Clusters of cases	0
Mauritius	324	0	9	0	Clusters of cases	5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	287	0	23	0	Clusters of cases	1
Kenya	246	12	11	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mali	190	19	13	0	Sporadic cases	0
United Republic of Tanzania	148	54	5	1	Sporadic cases	0
Congo	143	26	6	1	Clusters of cases	0
Rwanda	138	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Madagascar	117	0	0	0	Clusters of cases	1
Ethiopia	96	4	3	0	Sporadic cases	0
Gabon	95	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Togo	83	2	5	0	Sporadic cases	0
Liberia	76	3	7	1	Sporadic cases	0
Cabo Verde	55	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Uganda	55	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Zambia	52	4	2	0	Sporadic cases	0
Equatorial Guinea	51	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Guinea-Bissau	50	4	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Benin	37	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Eritrea	35	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	2
Chad	33	6	0	0	Sporadic cases	0

Mozambique	31	2	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Sierra Leone	26	11	0	0	Sporadic cases	0
Zimbabwe	24	1	3	0	Sporadic cases	0
Angola	19	0	2	0	Sporadic cases	9
Eswatini	19	3	1	0	Sporadic cases	0
Malawi	17	1	2	0	Sporadic cases	0
Namibia	16	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	12
Botswana	15	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	1
Central African Republic	12	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	1
Seychelles	11	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	11
Gambia	9	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	6
Mauritania	7	0	1	0	Sporadic cases	7
Burundi	5	0	0	0	Sporadic cases	5
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	0	0	0	Pending	11
South Sudan	4	0	0	0	Pending	6
Territories**						
Réunion	402	8	0	0	Clusters of cases	0
Mayotte	245	12	4	1	Clusters of cases	0
Subtotal for all Regions	2 159495	85678	146075	6710		
International conveyance (Diamond Princess)	712	0	13	0	Not Applicable ^{††}	33
Grand total	2 160207	85678	146088	6710		

* Numbers include both domestic and repatriated cases

† The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

‡ Case classifications are based on [WHO case definitions](#) for COVID-19.

§ Transmission classification is based on a process of country/territory/area self-reporting. Classifications are reviewed on a weekly basis and may be upgraded or downgraded as new information becomes available. Not all locations within a given country/territory/area are equally affected; countries/territories/areas experiencing multiple types of transmission are classified in the highest category reported. Within a given transmission category, different countries/territories/areas may have differing degrees of transmission as indicated by the differing numbers of cases, recency of cases, and other factors.

Terms:

- **No cases:** Countries/territories/areas with no confirmed cases (not shown in table)
- **Sporadic cases:** Countries/territories/areas with one or more cases, imported or locally detected
- **Clusters of cases:** Countries/territories/areas experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures
- **Community transmission:** Countries/area/territories experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to:
 - Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains
 - Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance
 - Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

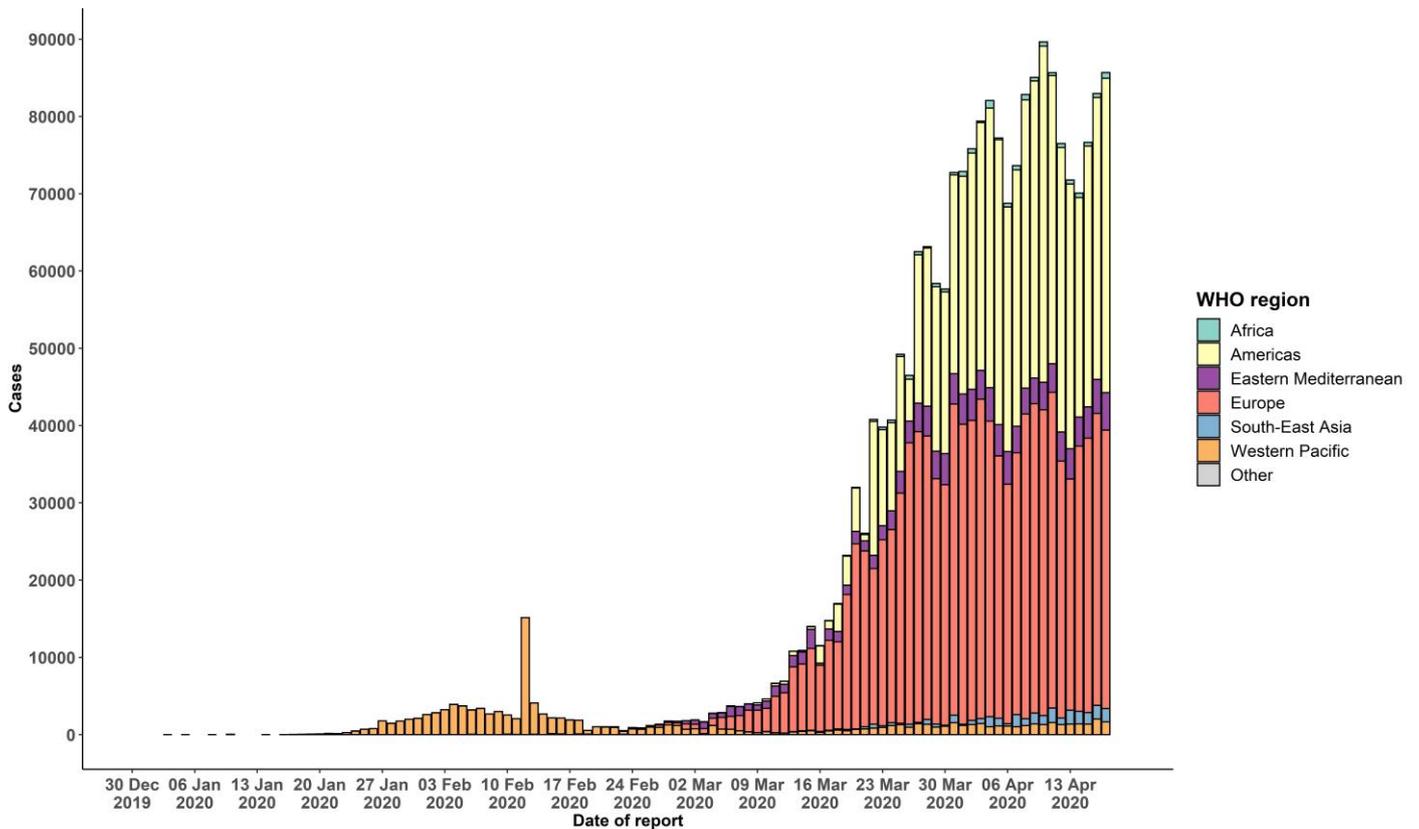
** "Territories" include territories, areas, overseas dependencies and other jurisdictions of similar status

[1] All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

†† As the international conveyance (Diamond Princess) is no longer occupied, transmission classification cannot be applied.

Due to differences in reporting methods, retrospective data consolidation, and reporting delays, the number of new cases may not always reflect the exact difference between yesterday's and today's totals. WHO COVID-19 Situation Reports present official counts of confirmed COVID-19 cases, thus differences between WHO reports and other sources of COVID-19 data using different inclusion criteria and different data cutoff times are to be expected.

Figure 4. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 18 April 2020



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHO's strategic objectives for this response are to:

- Interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events, and preventing further international spread*;
- Identify, isolate and care for patients early, including providing optimized care for infected patients;
- Identify and reduce transmission from the animal source;
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission and infection, treatment options, and accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines;
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation;
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

*This can be achieved through a combination of public health measures, such as rapid identification, diagnosis and management of the cases, identification and follow up of the contacts, infection prevention and control in health care settings, implementation of health measures for travelers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- To view all technical guidance documents regarding COVID-19, please go to [this webpage](#).
- WHO has developed interim guidance for laboratory diagnosis, advice on the use of masks during home care and in health care settings in the context of COVID-19 outbreak, clinical management, infection prevention and control in health care settings, home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus, risk communication and community engagement and Global Surveillance for human infection with COVID-19.
- WHO is working closely with International Air Transport Association (IATA) and have jointly developed a guidance document to provide advice to cabin crew and airport workers, based on country queries. The guidance can be found on the [IATA webpage](#).
- WHO has been in regular and direct contact with Member States where cases have been reported. WHO is also informing other countries about the situation and providing support as requested.
- WHO is working with its networks of researchers and other experts to coordinate global work on surveillance, epidemiology, mathematical modelling, diagnostics and virology, clinical care and treatment, infection prevention and control, and risk communication. WHO has issued interim guidance for countries, which are updated regularly.
- WHO has prepared a [disease commodity package](#) that includes an essential list of biomedical equipment, medicines and supplies necessary to care for patients with COVID-19.
- WHO has provided recommendations to reduce risk of [transmission from animals to humans](#).
- WHO has published an [updated recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak](#).
- WHO has activated the R&D blueprint to accelerate diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.
- OpenWHO is an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. [COVID-19 courses can be found here](#) and courses in [additional national languages here](#). Specifically, WHO has developed online courses on the following topics:
 - Introduction to Go.Data – Field data collection, chains of transmission and contact follow-up. The Go.Data tool is available globally to WHO staff, member states and partners to support outbreak investigation, focusing on field data collection, contact tracing and visualisation of chains of transmission.
 - A general introduction to emerging respiratory viruses, including novel coronaviruses (available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Hindi, Indian Sign Language, Persian, Portuguese, Serbian and Turkish);
 - Clinical care for Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (available in English, French, Russian, Indonesian and Vietnamese);
 - Health and safety briefing for respiratory diseases - ePROTECT (available in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Indonesian and Portuguese);
 - Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (available in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Serbian); and
 - COVID-19 Operational Planning Guidelines and COVID-19 Partners Platform to support country preparedness and response (available in English and coming soon in additional languages).
- WHO is providing guidance on early investigations, which are critical in an outbreak of a new virus. The data collected from the protocols can be used to refine recommendations for surveillance and case definitions, to characterize the key epidemiological transmission features of COVID-19, help understand spread, severity, spectrum of disease, impact on the community and to inform operational models for implementation of countermeasures such as case isolation, contact tracing and isolation. Several protocols are available [here](#). One such protocol is for the investigation of early COVID-19 cases and contacts (the "[First Few X \(FFX\) Cases and contact investigation protocol for 2019-novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) infection](#)"). The protocol is designed to gain an early understanding of the key clinical, epidemiological and virological characteristics of the first cases of COVID-19 infection detected in any individual country, to inform the development and updating of public health guidance to manage cases and reduce the potential spread and impact of infection.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

If you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not travelled from an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not been in contact with an infected patient, your risk of infection is low. It is understandable that you may feel anxious about the outbreak. Get the facts from reliable sources to help you accurately determine your risks so that you can take reasonable precautions (see [Frequently Asked Questions](#)). Seek guidance from WHO, your healthcare provider, your national public health authority or your employer for accurate information on COVID-19 and whether COVID-19 is circulating where you live. It is important to be informed of the situation and take appropriate measures to protect yourself and your family (see [Protection measures for everyone](#)).

If you are in an area where there are cases of COVID-19 you need to take the risk of infection seriously. Follow the advice of WHO and guidance issued by national and local health authorities. For most people, COVID-19 infection will cause mild illness however, it can make some people very ill and, in some people, it can be fatal. Older people, and those with pre-existing medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease or diabetes) are at risk for severe disease (See [Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited \(past 14 days\) areas where COVID-19 is spreading](#)).

CASE DEFINITIONS

WHO periodically updates the [Global Surveillance for human infection with coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#) document which includes case definitions.

For easy reference, case definitions are included below.

Suspect case

A. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

OR

B. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of contact) in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

C. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; AND requiring hospitalization) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

Probable case

A. A suspect case for whom testing for the COVID-19 virus is inconclusive.

a. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory.

OR

B. A suspect case for whom testing could not be performed for any reason.

Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

- Technical guidance for laboratory testing can be found [here](#).

Definition of contact

A contact is a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:

1. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes;
2. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case;
3. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment¹; OR
4. Other situations as indicated by local risk assessments.

Note: for confirmed asymptomatic cases, the period of contact is measured as the 2 days before through the 14 days *after the date on which the sample was taken* which led to confirmation.

¹ World Health Organization. Infection prevention and control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125)