

Overview of the **COVID-19 pandemic**

THE LATEST ON THE COVID-19 GLOBAL SITUATION
& HOW THE PANDEMIC SPREAD

Overview

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Current global situation

As of 01 November 2020, 10:00AM CEST

- **Nearly 46 million cases**

- 5 countries with highest cumulative number of cases



United States of America



India



Brazil



Russian Federation



France

- **> 1.19 million deaths**

- 5 countries with highest cumulative number of deaths



United States of America



Brazil



India



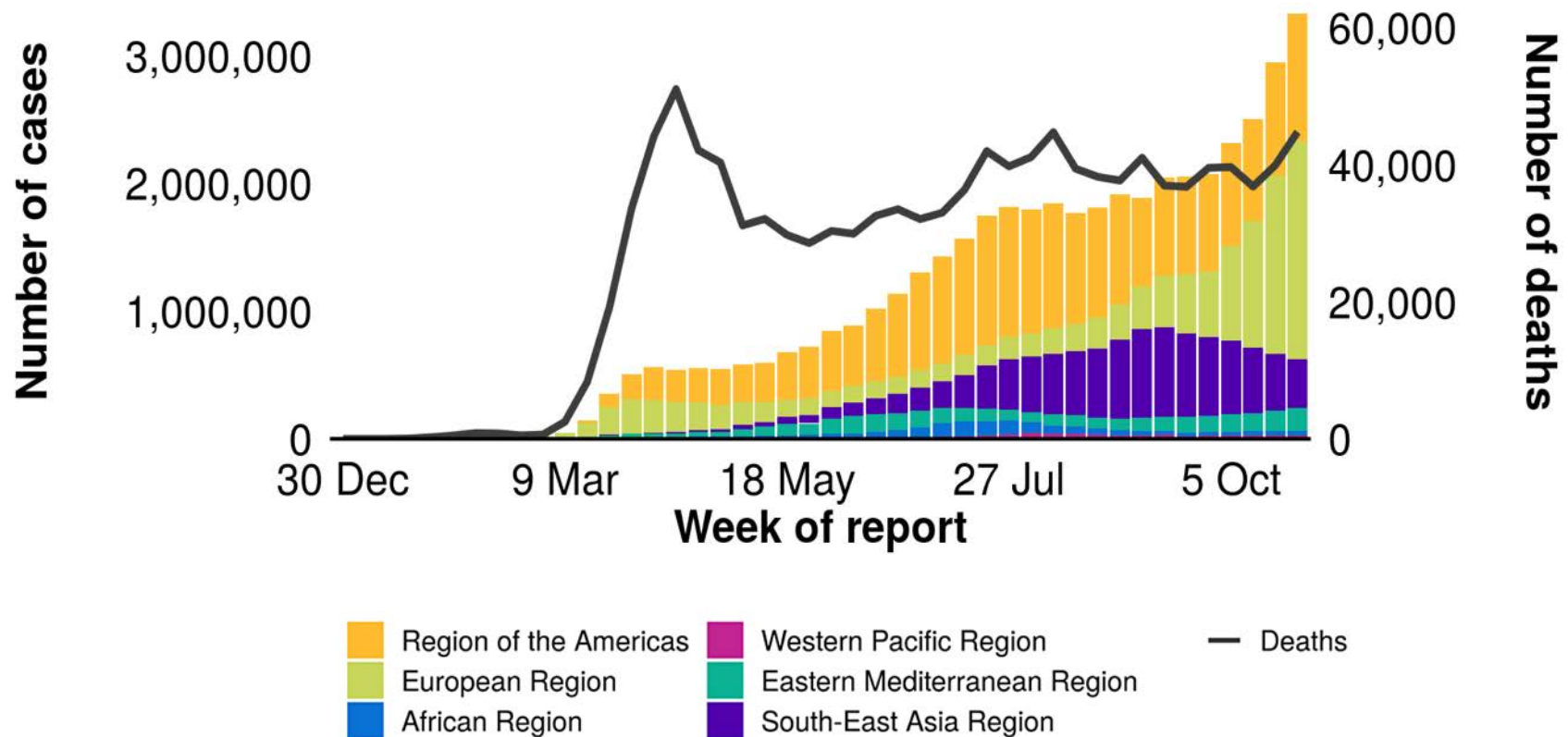
Mexico



The United Kingdom

Current global situation

Cases reported to WHO as of 01 November 2020, 10:00AM CEST

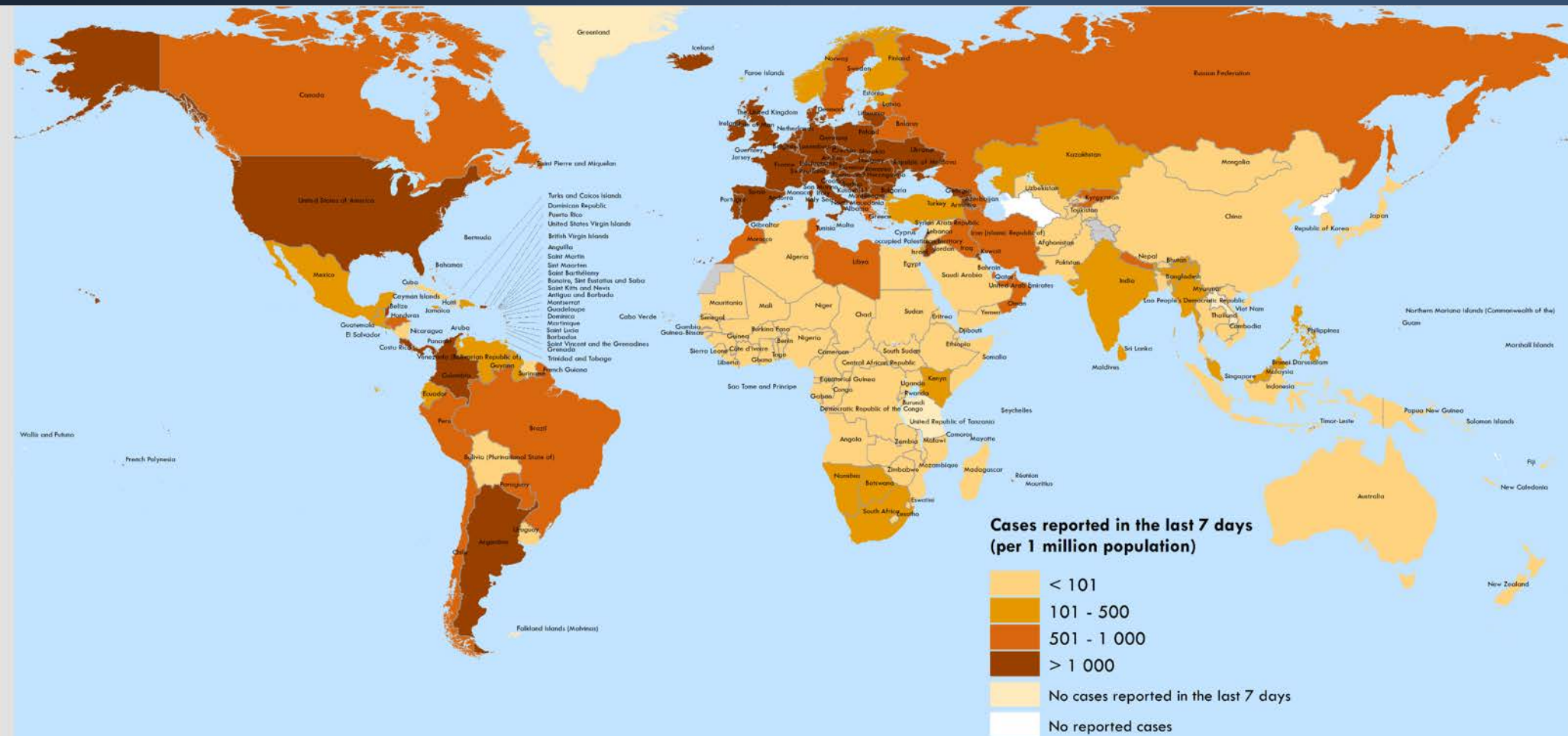


* Cases depicted by bars; deaths depicted by line

COVID-19 cases reported in the last 7 days

Per million population

FROM 26 OCTOBER 2020, 10:00AM CEST to 01 NOVEMBER 2020, 10:00 AM CEST



Data Source: World Health Organization,
United Nations Population Division (population prospect 2020)
Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme



Not applicable

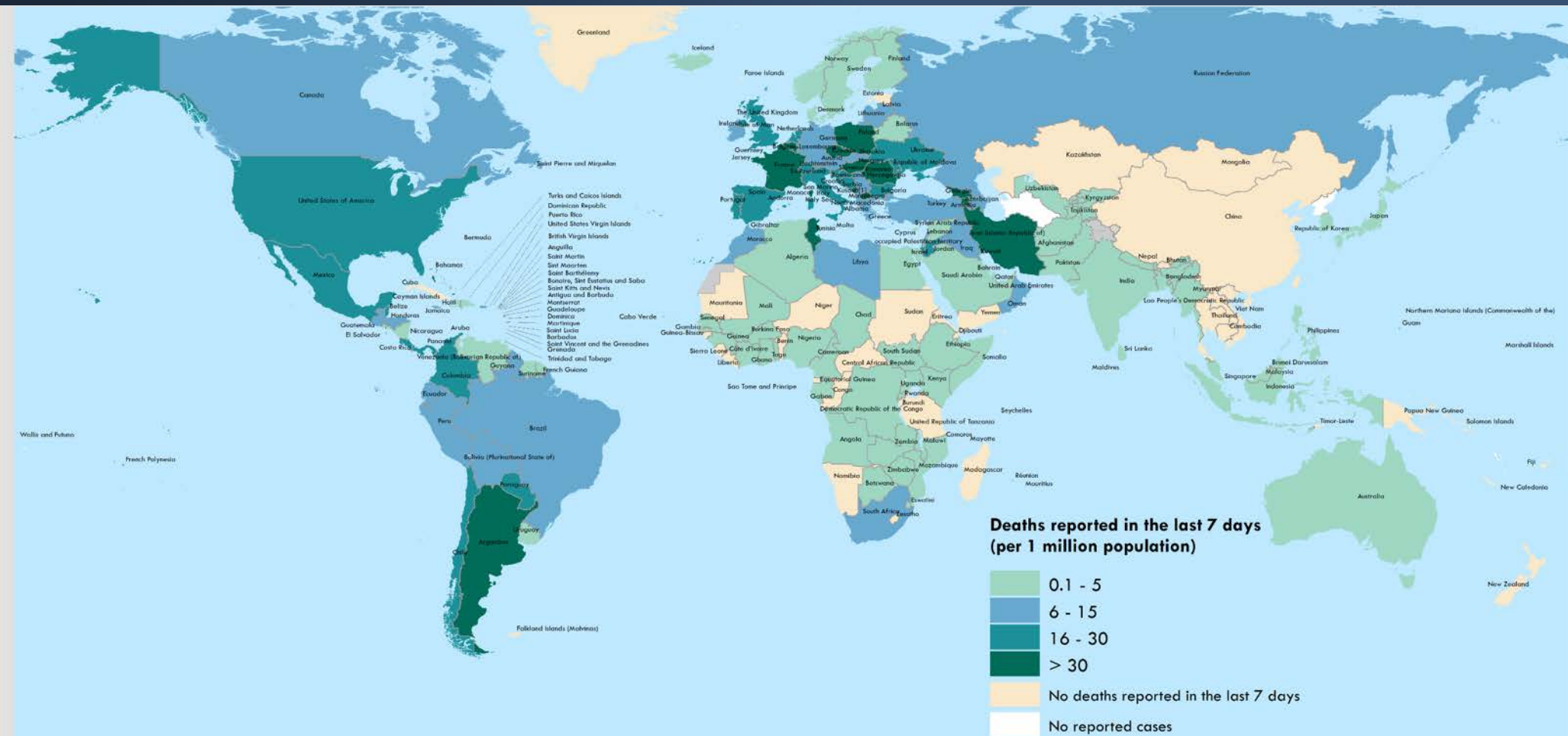
0 2,500 5,000 km
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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or 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. [1] All references to Kosovo in this document should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Number of cases of Serbia and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244, 1999) have been aggregated for visualization purposes.

COVID-19 deaths reported in the last 7 days

Per million population

FROM 26 OCTOBER 2020, 10:00AM CEST to 01 NOVEMBER 2020, 10:00 AM CEST



Data Source: World Health Organization,
United Nations Population Division (population prospect 2020)
Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Not applicable

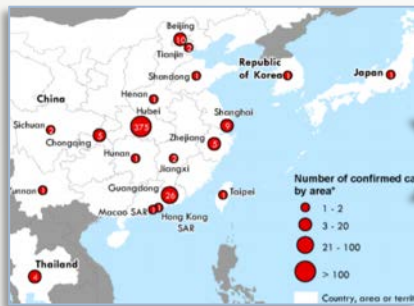
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Overview of the COVID-19 pandemic

A high-level overview of emerging issues in each phase

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves around the world, it passes through several phases, raising distinct questions and challenges in each



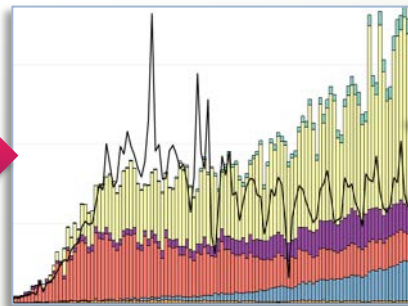
Phase 1

An unknown virus emerges



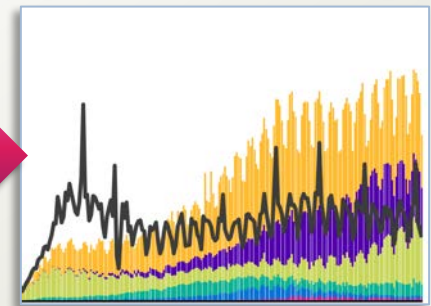
Phase 2

A pandemic unfolds



Phase 3

The pandemic accelerates



Phase 4

Where we are now

Phase 1

An unknown virus emerges

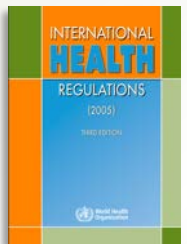
An unusual cluster of severe pneumonia cases is identified in **China** raising questions about a possible new disease (December 2019)



Source: WHO 21 January 2020

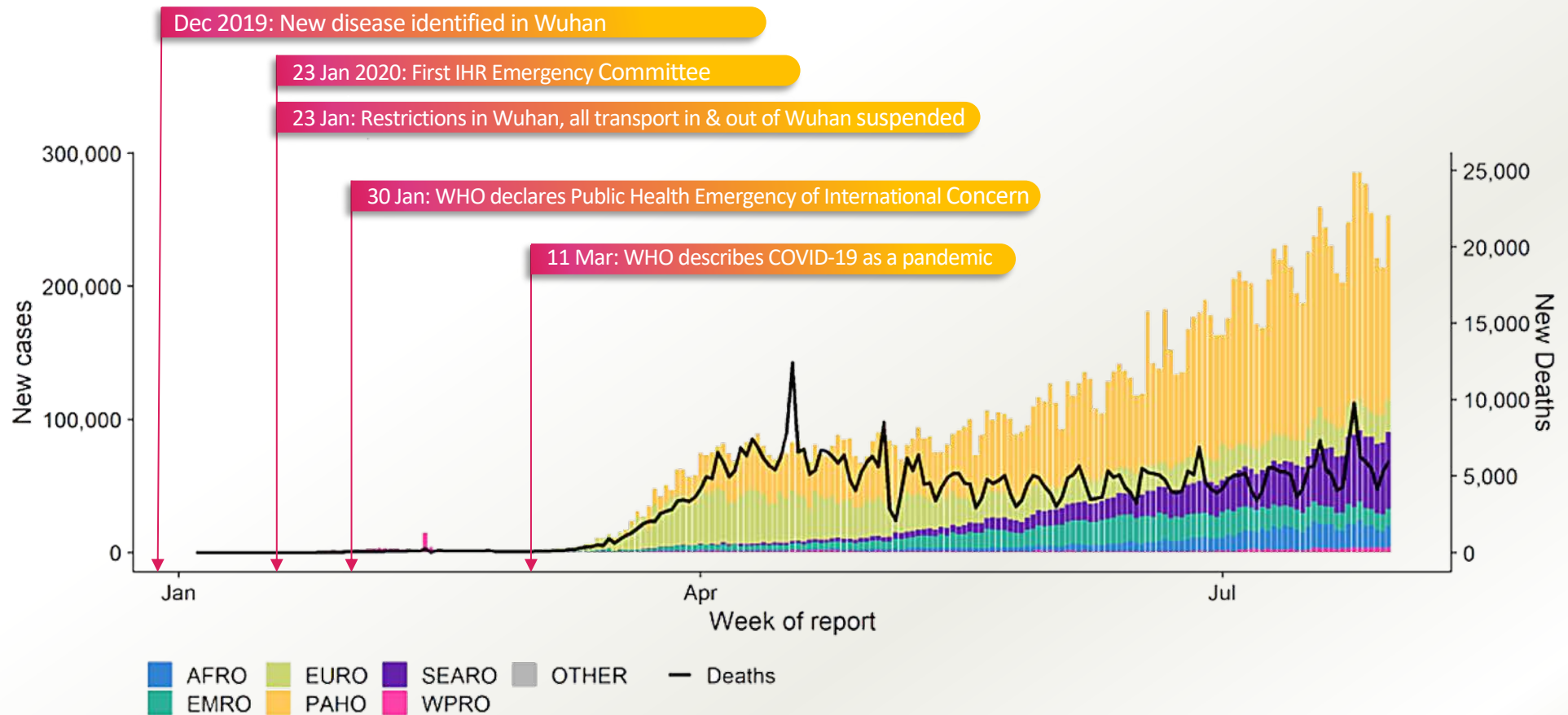
- Some cases are linked to a sea food market, in Wuhan, Hubei province, China
- Some patients die, especially older people and those with other medical conditions
- The new disease is caused by a novel *coronavirus*, a family of viruses known to infect animals & humans
- The infection causes respiratory disease ranging from mild to severe disease

Following advice from the IHR Emergency Committee for COVID-19, on 30 January 2020 – with around 7700 confirmed cases in China and 82 cases outside of China – WHO declares the outbreak to be a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern**



Phase 1

Initial response to the virus

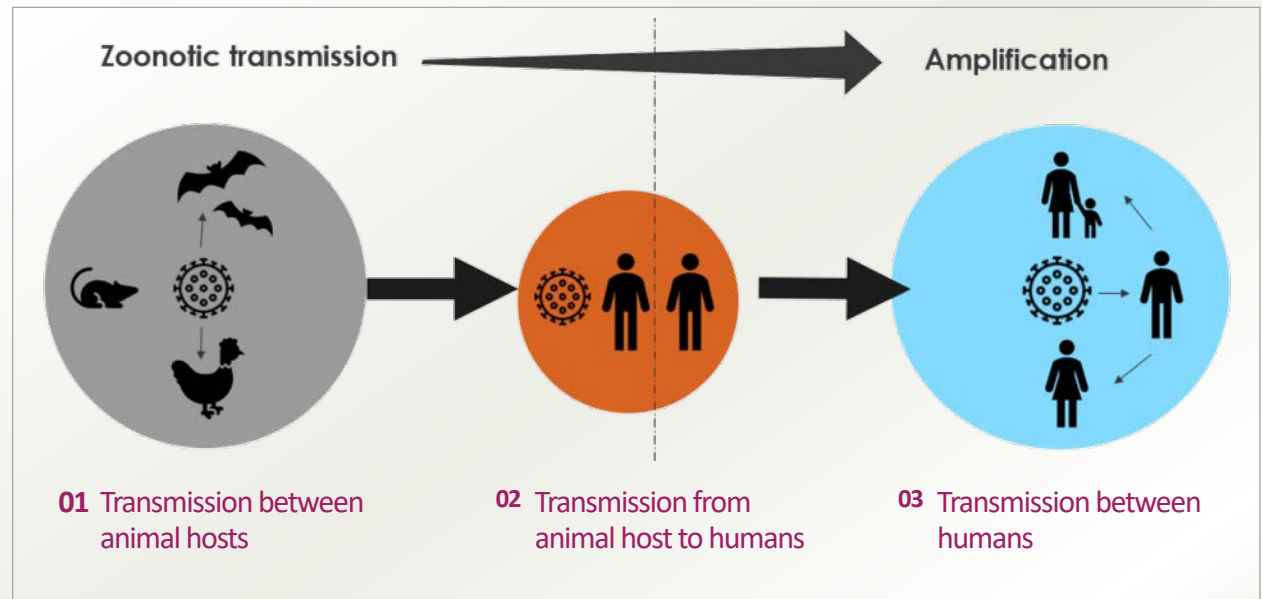


Other: two international conveyances

Phase 1

Earliest information available on the novel coronavirus

- **Four known human coronaviruses** cause a common cold, while others cause more severe disease.
 - MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. Since September 2012, there have been 2562 confirmed cases of MERS with 881 associated deaths. The case fatality rate of MERS is around 34%¹.
 - SARS – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Outbreak in 2003 with a case fatality rate of around 10%².
- **Some animal coronaviruses can infect humans** – these are known as zoonotic diseases. The source of the new virus is still under investigation.
- **The genetic sequence of the new virus** is published on 11 January 2020 enabling rapid development of diagnostic tests (polymerase chain reaction – PCR).
- The question as to whether there is **sustained person-to-person transmission** took time to establish.



¹ www.who.int/emergencies/mers-cov/en/

² www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2003/pr56/en/

Phase 1

Research for vaccines and therapeutics began immediately

- After the West Africa Ebola outbreak in 2014-2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted a plan for research and development (R&D) – this is known as the **R&D Blueprint**
- The R&D Blueprint is a global strategy to enable rapid activation of research during epidemics and fast-track development of diagnostics, vaccines and medicines.
- WHO convened the first global **COVID-19 Research and Innovation Forum** in Geneva on 11-12 February 2020.



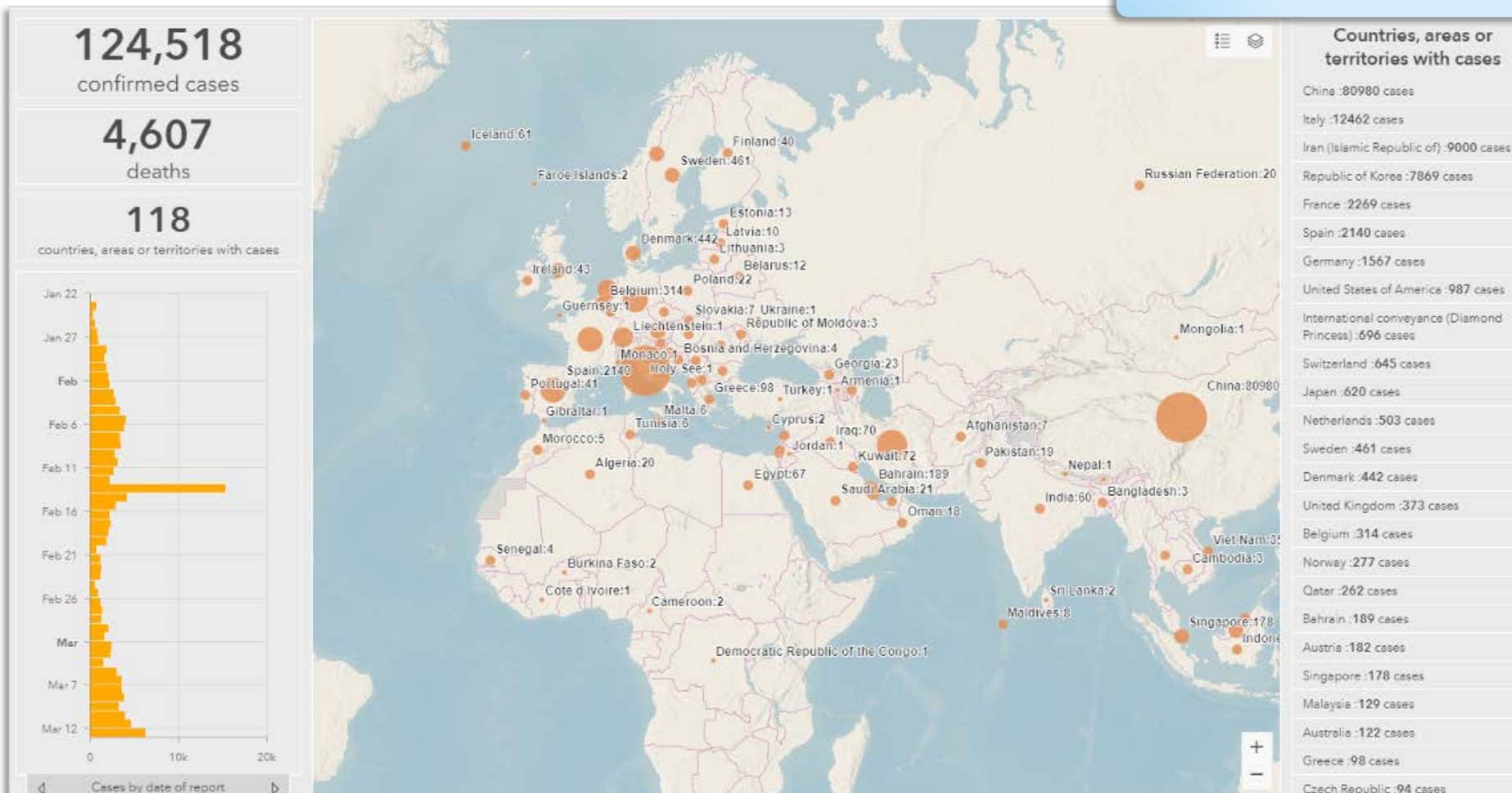
¹ <https://www.who.int/teams/blueprint/covid-19>

² [https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/02/11/default-calendar/global-research-and-innovation-forum-to-mobilize-international-action-in-response-to-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-emergency](https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/02/11/default-calendar/global-research-and-innovation-forum-to-mobilize-international-action-in-response-to-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-emergency)

Phase 2

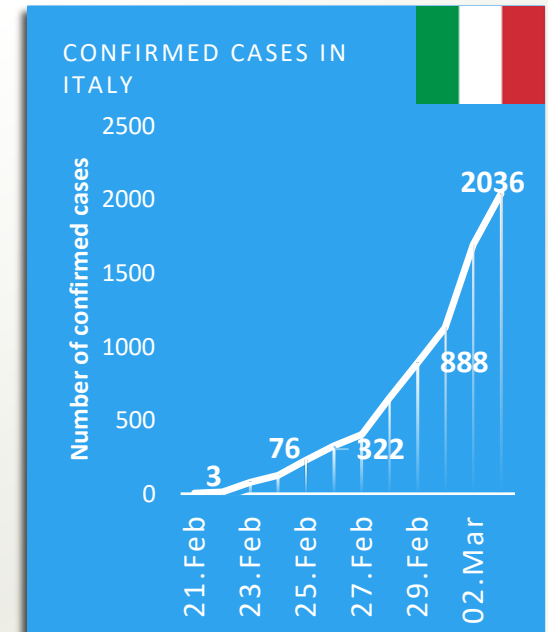
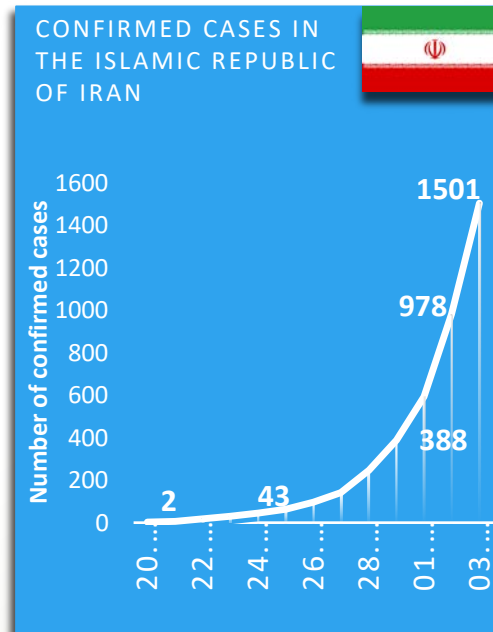
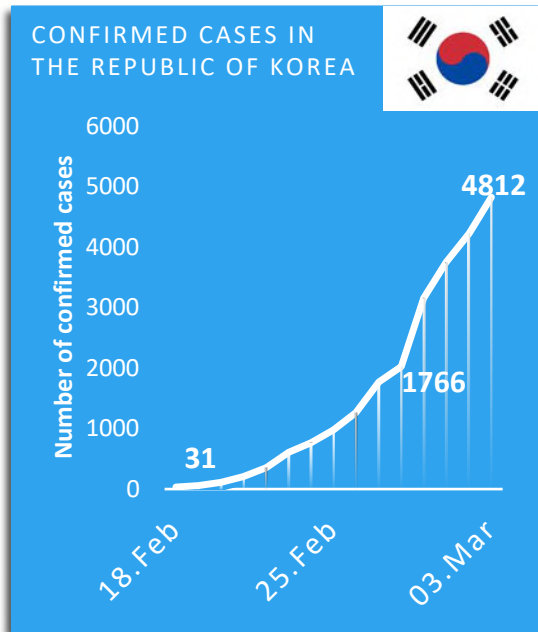
A pandemic unfolds

By 12 March 2020, there were **over 120,000 cases** and **over 4,600 deaths**



Phase 2

COVID-19 spreads outside China




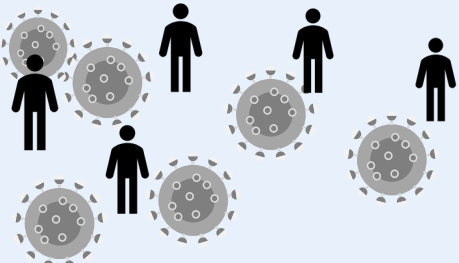


- **Mass gatherings** such as religious events in the city of Daegu in South Korea, religious gatherings in Qom, Iran and the Champions League football match in Bergamo, Italy **play a key role in the spread of COVID-19**
- The case fatality ratio is higher in Italy than was reported in China. Early information that **older people are at higher risk of severe disease is reinforced**
- On **11 March 2020**, WHO characterizes the outbreak as a **pandemic**

Phase 2

Countries respond to the pandemic in different ways

Four transmission scenarios require different responses from countries

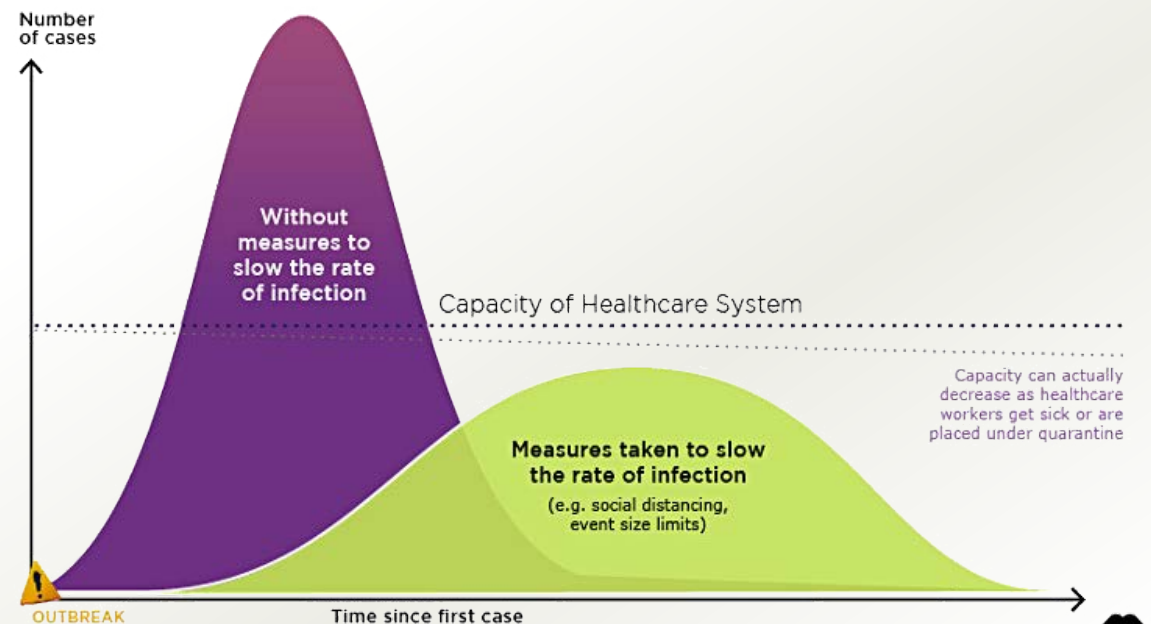
Four transmission scenarios		Action
No reported cases		Stop transmission & prevent spread
Sporadic cases		
Clusters of cases		
Community transmission		Slow transmission, reduce case numbers & end community outbreaks

Phase 2

In many countries, spread of COVID-19 leads to community transmission

- Some countries manage to stop transmission with control measures
- Many countries close schools, shops, workplaces, bars, restaurants as well as borders and ask people to stay home to limit the spread of the virus

Flattening the COVID-19 Case Curve



Source: Adapted from Drew Harris, CDC

Phase 2

Health systems are under pressure even in wealthy countries

- Hospitals and health workers face rising demand to attend to a growing number of COVID-19 patients
- **Materials are in short supply:**
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Oxygen and ventilators
 - COVID-19 diagnostic tests
- **Health workers** are affected, many **lose their lives:** of all detailed case reports submitted to WHO by October 2020, 14% are health workers
- **Usual health care is cancelled** or postponed with a major impact on other endemic or chronic diseases as well as on preventive activities such as routine immunization



Phase 3

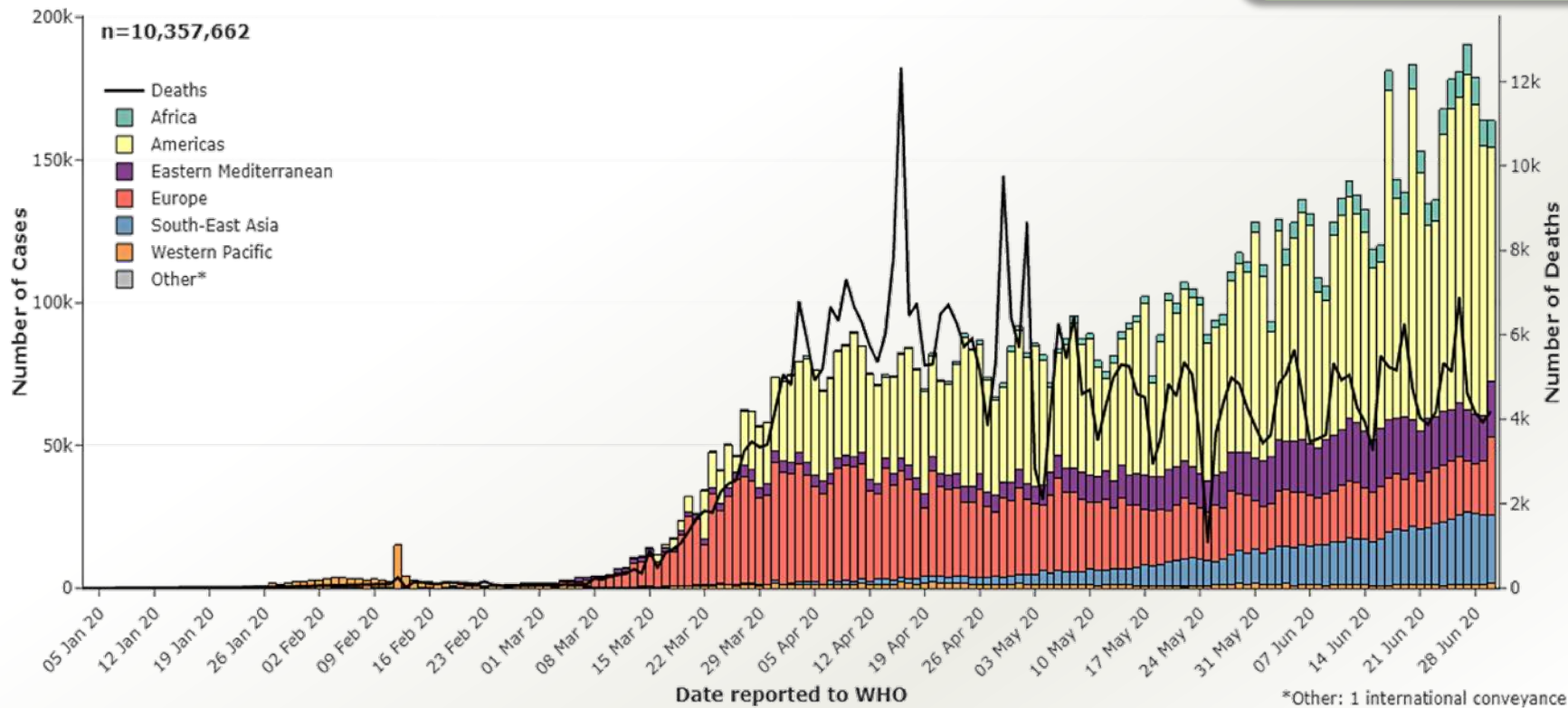
The pandemic accelerates

The epicentre moves from Europe to the Americas

By 1 July 2020, there were over **10.3 million cases** and over **503,000 deaths** in **215 countries** or areas and two ships

Source: WHO

Number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases by date reported to WHO and region



Phase 3

Beyond the health crisis: impact on all of society

- **National restrictions** have a huge impact on businesses and individuals lose jobs
- The International Monetary Fund forecast global output to fall to 4.9% this year
- The travel sector is greatly affected by **international movement restrictions**
- Most countries introduce financial support for businesses and individuals
- Pressure mounts to re-open societies, including schools to minimize social and economic damage

Source: www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/imf-lockdown-recession-covid19-coronavirus-economics-recession/



Inside Chicago O'Hare International Airport, United States of America

Phase 3

Countries start re-opening societies

- The 'first wave' passes in countries first affected which see cases declining
- **Some country borders re-open and restrictions are eased**, in particular during holidays in the northern hemisphere
- The numbers of cases and deaths continue to rise in increasingly affected parts of the Americas and South-East Asia



People at the beach respecting physical distancing in the United Kingdom

Phase 3

One of the most concerning questions is to what extent COVID-19 spreads in schools

- **Some schools and universities resume in-person education** with a number of safety measures in place while others continue remote learning
- **There were few outbreaks reported in schools since early 2020¹**
 - Studies were limited during school closures and other stay at home measures. We are learning more as schools re-open
 - In most infections or COVID-19 cases reported in children, infection was acquired at home
- **More outbreaks were reported in secondary/high schools than in primary/elementary schools**
 - Studies suggest that children < 10 years are less susceptible and less infectious than older ones
- **In school outbreaks, it was more likely that virus was introduced by adult personnel**
 - Transmission staff-to-staff was most common; among staff and students was less common; and student-to-student spread more rare
- Early modelling studies suggested that closing schools reduced community transmission less than other social distancing interventions²



Children respect physical distancing entering a school in the Federal Republic of Germany

¹ [COVID-19 in children and the role of school settings in COVID-19 transmission](#)

² [School closure and management practices during coronavirus outbreaks including COVID-19: a rapid systematic review](#)

Phase 3

How the pandemic affects the African Region

- In many African countries, **case numbers are low**. The reported **mortality is also low** compared to European countries. There are many hypothesis to explain these differences including: **low testing capacity, underreporting, young population, pre-existing cross immunity**.

WHO Dashboard	European region	African region
Cumulative cases COVID-19	11.1 million	1.3 million
Cumulative deaths COVID-19	285,135	29,785
Population size	750 million	1.3 billion

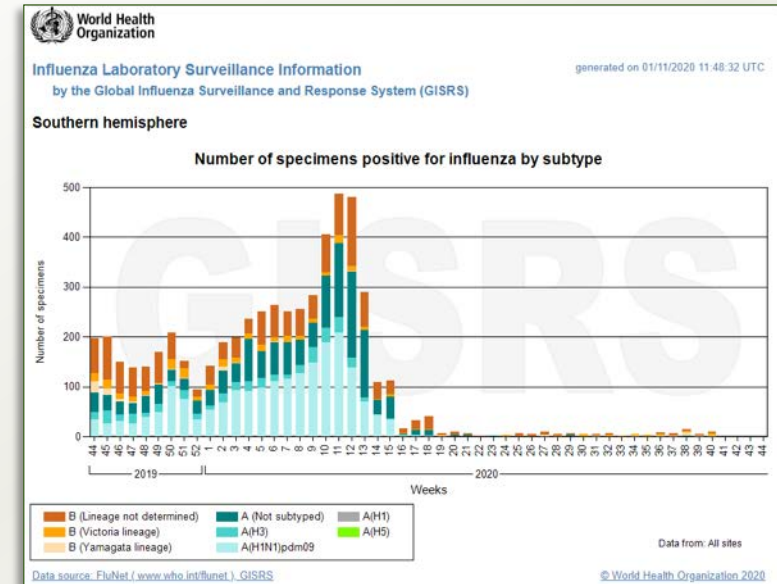
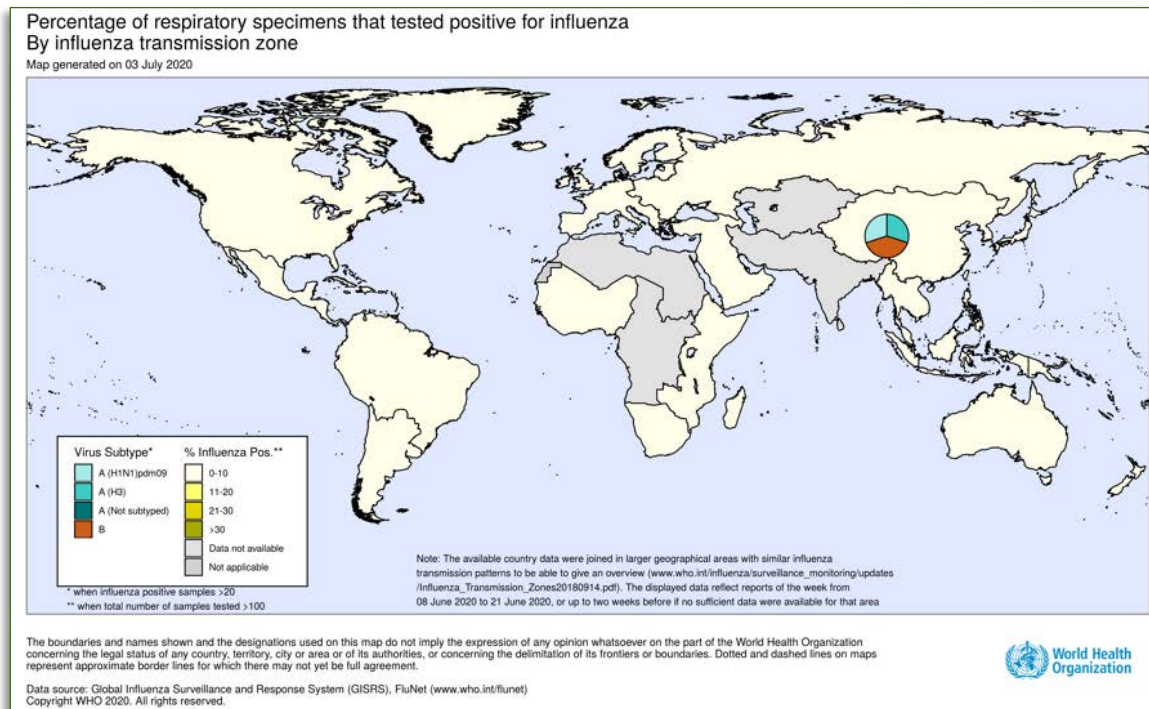
Source: COVID-19 Dashboard, WHO 02 Nov 2020



Phase 3

Influenza season in the Southern Hemisphere

- The Southern Hemisphere reports far fewer cases of seasonal influenza than usual
- Unclear yet what will happen in the Northern Hemisphere where the flu season is about to start



Phase 3

Emerging transmission patterns

- Lessons are learned from transmission in special settings like:
 - cruise ships
 - prisons
 - seniors' residences and long-term care facilities
 - schools
- COVID-19 outbreaks feature **clusters and super-spreading events** particularly from crowded living quarters or workplaces and small and large gatherings that take place indoors without distancing or ventilation



Phase 3

COVID-19 spreads more easily in certain settings

- **Certain situations and activities** are identified to be at **higher risk for COVID-19 transmission**:
 - **Crowded places**
 - **Close-contact settings**
 - **Confined and enclosed spaces** with poor ventilation

Avoid the Three Cs

Be aware of different levels of risk in different settings.

There are certain places where COVID-19 spreads more easily:



Crowded places

with many people nearby



Close-contact settings

Especially where people have close-range conversations



Confined and enclosed spaces

with poor ventilation



The risk is higher in places where these factors overlap.

Even as restrictions are lifted, consider where you are going and #StaySafe by avoiding the Three Cs.

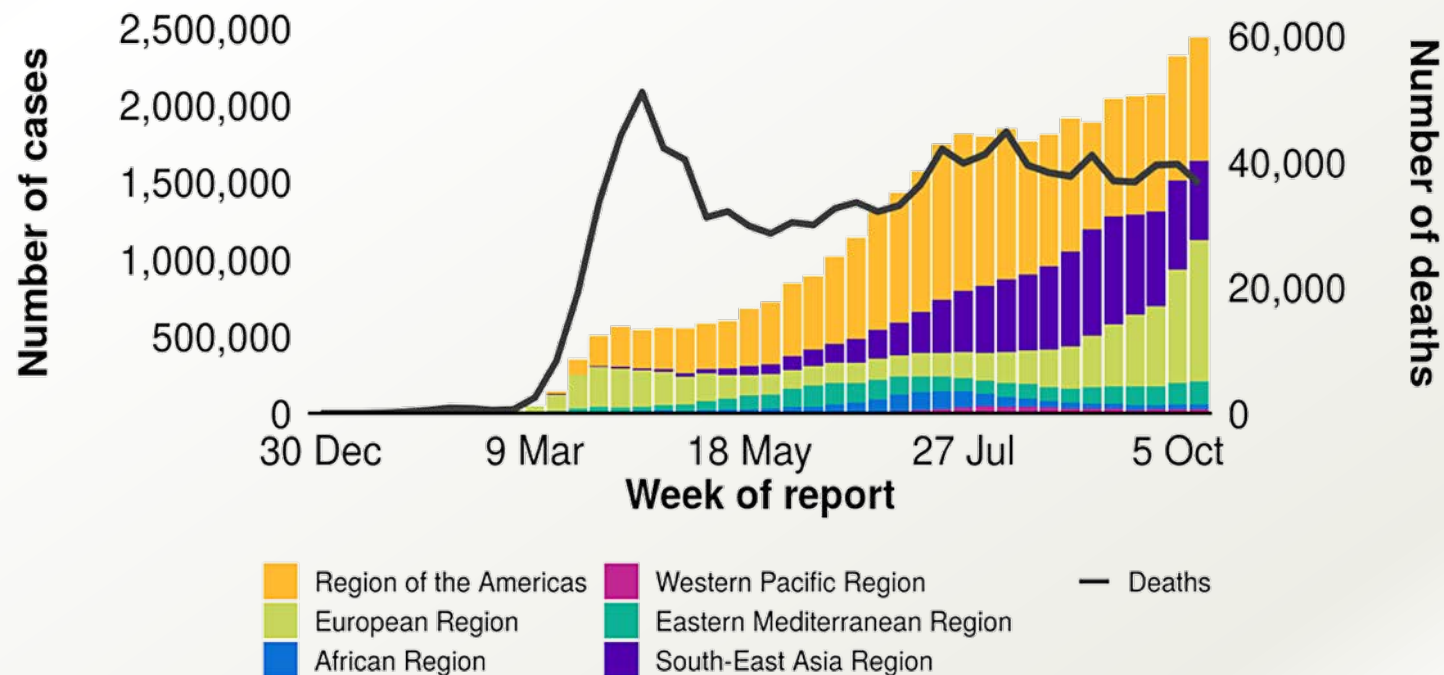
Phase 4

Where we are now

There is sustained transmission in the US and India, a new increase of cases in Europe (2nd wave); while other countries remain COVID free (e.g. New Zealand)

By 01 November, there are nearly **46 million** cases and **over 1.19 million** deaths

Source: WHO

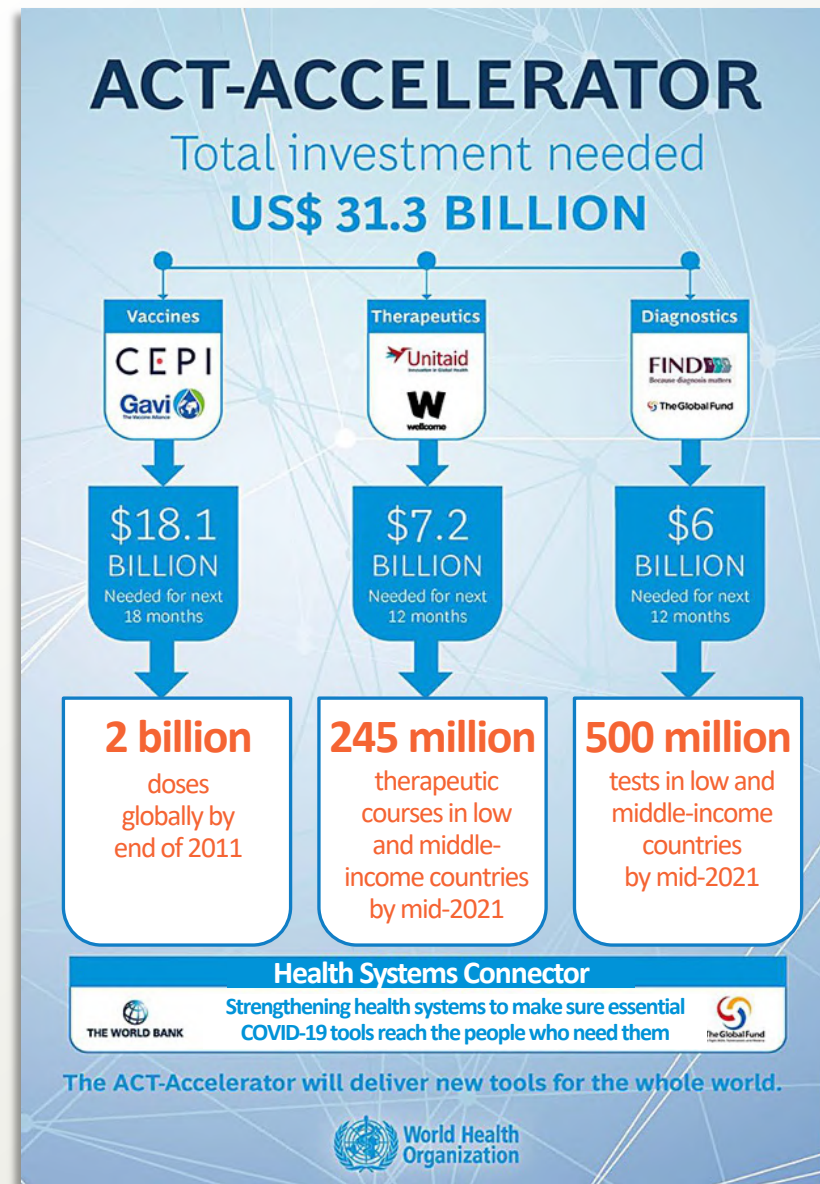


Source: WHO 18 October 2020

Phase 4

Global partnership

- **Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator** is a global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics
 - Vaccines in development:
 - **154 in preclinical evaluation**
 - **44 in clinical evaluation**
 - **10 in phase III trials**
 - Dexamethasone has been confirmed as a useful therapeutic treatment for severe cases
 - An antigen-based rapid diagnostic test has been approved
 - [Information on vaccines](#)
 - [More information on the ACT Accelerator](#)



Phase 4

Reaching for global solidarity

WHO has developed a *framework for equitable and fair allocation of ACT accelerator products*



‘No-one is safe until every one is safe’

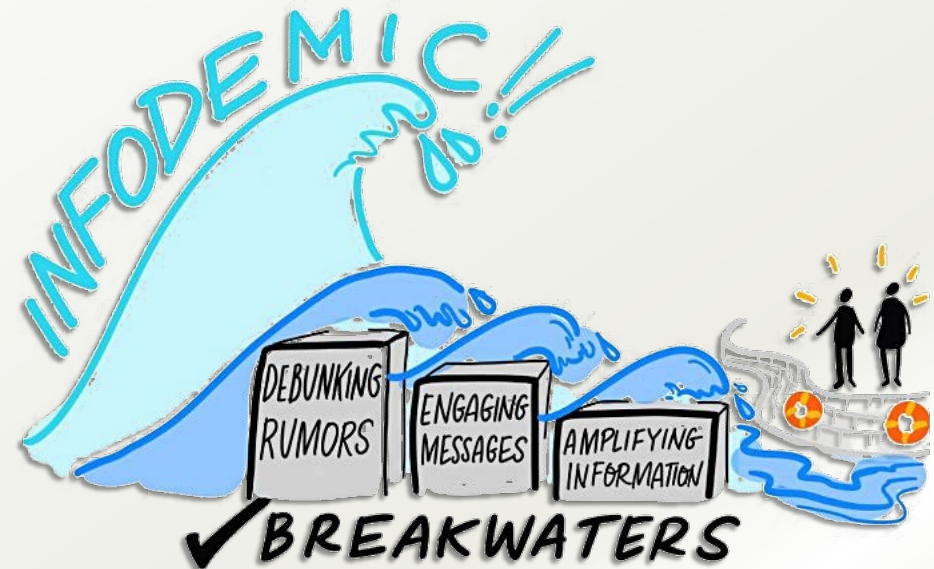
www.who.int/publications/m/item/fair-allocation-mechanism-for-covid-19-vaccines-through-the-covax-facility

Phase 4

Mis- and disinformation complicates the picture

- An infodemic is the tsunami of information – some accurate, some not – that spreads alongside an epidemic or pandemic
- Managing the infodemic has become more challenging with rapid spread of mis- and disinformation through social media
- In some countries, **misinformation** has generated **mistrust** in governments, public health authorities and science
- Managing the infodemic management is critical to managing the pandemic

[More information on infodemics and risk communication](#)



What's next?

WHO Member States discussed at the [WHO Executive Board](#) meeting on 5-6 October 2020



The Seventy-third World Health Assembly will reconvene 9 - 14 November 2020 to assess progress on the pandemic response as well as to address other health matters.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the **lack of preparedness in most countries** and the **need for better preparedness** for future events
- There will be an [independent evaluation of the global response](#) and the International Health Regulations will be reviewed
- **WHO continues to provide technical guidance and logistics support to countries** wherever it is needed, and continues to lead coordination for vaccines, therapeutics and tests
- **Countries must nuance and adapt response to the local situation** as the pandemic continues to evolve featuring variation in local levels of transmission

► [More information on WHA73](#)

How to protect ourselves & others

9 important COVID-19 prevention measures



01 Stay home and self-isolate if you feel unwell, even with mild symptoms



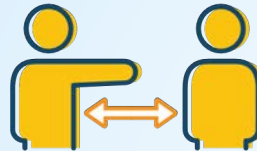
02 Clean hands frequently with soap & water for 40 seconds or with alcohol-based hand rub



03 Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze



04 Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth



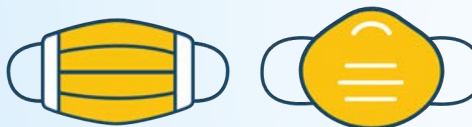
05 Maintain a minimum physical distance of at least 1 metre from others



06 Stay away from crowds and avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces



07 Use a fabric mask where physical distancing of at least 1 metre is not possible



08 Use a medical / surgical mask if you may be at higher risk (age, medical conditions)



09 Regularly clean & disinfect frequently touched surfaces

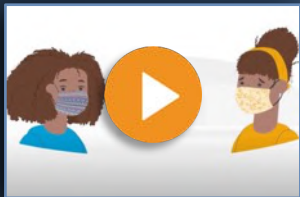
WHO guidance on COVID-19

VIDEO RESOURCES

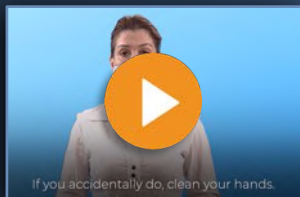
Masks



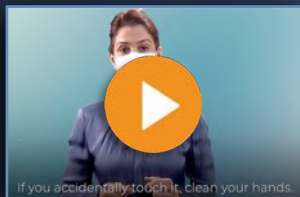
[Medical and fabric masks: who wears what when?](#)



[How to wear a fabric mask safely](#)

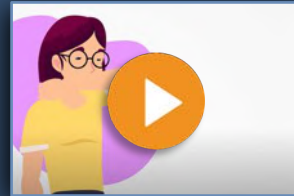


[How to wear a fabric mask](#)



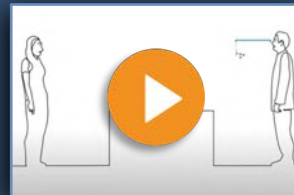
[How to wear a medical mask](#)

Transmission



[How to break the chains of transmission](#)

Protecting ourselves



[How to protect yourself against COVID-19](#)



[Seven steps to prevent the spread of the virus](#)



EPI•WiN

infodemic
MANAGEMENT

www.who.int/epi-win