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
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
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

- 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

Source: WHO 21 January 2020

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

An unusual cluster of severe pneumonia cases is identified in China raising questions about a possible new disease (December 2019)
Phase 1
Initial response to the virus

Dec 2019: New disease identified in Wuhan
23 Jan 2020: First IHR Emergency Committee
23 Jan: Restrictions in Wuhan, all transport in & out of Wuhan suspended
30 Jan: WHO declares Public Health Emergency of International Concern
11 Mar: WHO describes COVID-19 as a pandemic

New cases
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
Jan
Apr
Jul
Week of report
Deaths
AFRO
EURO
SEARO
OTHER
EMRO
PAHO
WPRO

Other: two international conveyances
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**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.

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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.


1 https://www.who.int/teams/blueprint/covid-19
Phase 2
A pandemic unfolds

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

124,518 confirmed cases
4,607 deaths

118 countries, areas or territories with cases

Countries, areas or territories with cases
- China: 30,080 cases
- Italy: 12,462 cases
- Iran (Islamic Republic of): 9,000 cases
- Republic of Korea: 7,869 cases
- France: 2,269 cases
- Spain: 2,140 cases
- Germany: 1,567 cases
- United States of America: 907 cases
- International conveyance (Diamond Princess): 666 cases
- Switzerland: 645 cases
- Japan: 620 cases
- Netherlands: 503 cases
- Sweden: 361 cases
- Denmark: 442 cases
- United Kingdom: 372 cases
- Belgium: 314 cases
- Norway: 277 cases
- Qatar: 262 cases
- Bahrain: 189 cases
- Austria: 182 cases
- Singapore: 178 cases
- Malaysia: 129 cases
- Australia: 122 cases
- Greece: 98 cases
- Czech Republic: 94 cases
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four transmission scenarios</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No reported cases</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporadic cases</td>
<td>Stop transmission &amp; prevent spread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clusters of cases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>Slow transmission, reduce case numbers &amp; end community outbreaks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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

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

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
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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

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
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

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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
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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**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO Dashboard</th>
<th>European region</th>
<th>African region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative cases COVID-19</td>
<td>11.1 million</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative deaths COVID-19</td>
<td>285,135</td>
<td>29,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population size</td>
<td>750 million</td>
<td>1.3 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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
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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:

1. Crowded places with many people nearby
2. Close-contact settings especially where people have close-range conversations
3. 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

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

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 dis-information 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 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

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.

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
Call for poster submissions

Third WHO Conference on Infodemic Management –
A whole-of-society approach
30 Nov – 11 Dec 2020

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
20 November 2020

Submit your digital poster about country experience in mitigating the COVID-19 infodemic.

Selected posters will be accepted and summarized as part of the conference proceedings.

Sharing your country’s experience in infodemic management can help improve other countries’ strategies.


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