

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Situation Report 2 **Philippines** 11 March 2020

Data reported by the Department of Health on 11 March 2020

Highlights

- A total of 16 cases new cases tested positive for COVID-19 on 11 March, after an additional 9 had been confirmed on 10 March and 14 on 9 March.
- Out of the total of 49 confirmed cases, 31% are imported from outside of the Philippines (China, Japan, South Korea/USA, Australia, UAE, Indonesia, Taiwan, Switzerland, and 2 from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship), 14% are categorised as localized transmission, and the remaining cases are still under investigation. For details on the first 33 cases please see table below.
- The Department of Health (DOH) is conducting intensified investigation in all new cases and are tracing a large number of contacts for each confirmed case to check for clustering of cases.
- All public and private schools in Metro Manila have been temporarily closed from yesterday 10 March until Friday 13 March.
- RITM is testing samples from close contacts at a capacity of 300 tests per day, with 5 sub national laboratories currently being prepared to start testing soon. Further preparations are ongoing to expand COVID-19 testing to an additional 4 laboratories.
- **COVID-19 Alert System to Code Red sublevel 1** in place: maintenance of a containment strategy while taking the necessary precautions for possible community transmission.
- A State of Public Health Emergency was declared on 9 March through the signing of Proclamation 922, allowing for implementation of mandatory reporting, intensify government response and measures, and enforce quarantine and disease control prevention measures.
- Over 60 development partners from UN agencies, NGOs, donors, church groups and private sector met on 10 March 2020 to discuss concerted efforts in support of the government's contingency plan for COVID-19, with support from WHO, OCHA and UNICEF.
- Many partners already supporting with risk communication, sharing of key messages, community engagement, hygiene promotion, provision of hand-washing and sanitary facilities in clinics and hospitals, training and supply of face masks, and tents for isolation and treatment of patients.
- The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) for the Philippines activated a Crisis Management Team for COVID-19 and appointed two co-COVID-19 coordinators.
- WHO is supporting DOH with strengthening of surveillance, infection prevention and control, risk communication, contingency planning, and laboratory capacity, including the provision of laboratory supplies

PHILIPPINES SITUATION IN NUMBERS

49 confirmed (39 new)

15 imported cases

7 local transmission

27 under investigation

68 admitted Persons Under Investigation

763 samples tested

<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

Summary of Cases

Case #	(Sex / Age)	Nationality	Date of Onset of Symptoms	Date of Laboratory Confirmation	Transmission Classification*
PH1	F 38	Chinese	January 21	January 30	Imported
PH2	M 44	Chinese	January 18	January 30	Imported
PH3	F 60	Chinese	January 21	January 30	Imported
PH4	M 48	Filipino	March 3	March 5	Imported
PH5	M 62	Filipino	February 25	March 5	Local transmission
PH6	F 59	Filipino	February 27	March 6	Local transmission
PH7	M 38	Taiwanese	3 March	8 March	Local transmission
PH8	M 32	Filipino	5 March	8 March	Imported
PH9	M 86	American	1 March	8 March	Imported
PH10	M 57	Filipino	Under investigation	8 March	Under investigation
PH11	M 72	Filipino	Under investigation	9 March	Under investigation
PH12	M 56	Filipino	29 February	9 March	Under investigation
PH13	M 34	Filipino	28 February	9 March	Imported
PH14	M 46	Filipino	25 February	9 March	Under investigation
PH15	M 24	Filipino	1 March	9 March	Imported
PH16	M 70	Filipino	1 March	9 March	Imported
PH17	F 69	Filipino	1 March	9 March	Imported
PH18	M 41	Filipino	26 February	9 March	Imported
PH19	F 46	Filipino	Under investigation	9 March	Local transmission
PH20	M 48	Filipino	29 February	9 March	Imported
PH21	F 58	Filipino	4 March	9 March	Under investigation
PH22	F 51	Filipino	4 March	9 March	Under investigation
PH23	F 30	Filipino	3 March	9 March	Under investigation
PH24	M 52	Filipino	6 March	9 March	Imported
PH25	M 31	Filipino	Asymptomatic	10 March	Imported
PH26	M 34	Filipino	Asymptomatic	10 March	Imported
PH27	F 42	Filipino	19 February	10 March	Under investigation
PH28	M 69	Filipino	29 February	10 March	Local transmission
PH29	F 82	Filipino	Asymptomatic	10 March	Local transmission
PH30	F 69	Filipino	5 March	10 March	Local transmission
PH31	F 28	Filipino	1 March	10 March	Under investigation
PH32	M 64	Filipino	27 February	10 March	Under investigation
PH33	M 60	Filipino	3 March	10 March	Under investigation

* KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Imported cases:** where all cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting.
- **Local transmission:** where the source of infection is within the reporting location.
- **Community transmission** is evidenced by the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing positive tests through routine screening of sentinel samples

Current Situation

On 12 January 2020, the Event-based Surveillance and Response (ESR) Unit of DOH's Epidemiology Bureau established surveillance for Patients Under Investigation (PUI) and Persons Under Monitoring (PUM) for COVID-19. Case definitions are regularly updated based on latest developments.

After the first 3 imported cases were confirmed for COVID-19 on 30 January, and a 4th imported case five weeks later, three cases were categorized as the first cases of local transmission in the country.

DOH surveillance teams have stepped up extensive information gathering and contact tracing activities on the new cases. DOH will provide further details as soon as the information is available.

To prepare for an increase in the number cases, including community transmission, the following actions are being taken:

Country readiness and response operations

Country-level coordination

DOH's Incident Management Team is working around the clock at the established Emergency Operating Centre to effectively coordinate all urgent actions required for a swift response. The Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) and the Inter Agency Technical Working Group (IATWG) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, consisting of key government agencies like the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), etc. are meeting on an as-needed basis to take decisions informed by daily risk assessments on travel restrictions and support to Filipinos overseas impacted by travel restrictions.

The IATWG is in the process of updating all guidelines based on the rapidly evolving situation.

A table top exercise to test the latest updated national contingency planning exercise for COVID-19 will be conducted soon under the leadership of DOH in close collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Over 60 development partners from UN agencies, NGOs, donors, church groups and private sector met on 10 March 2020 to discuss concerted efforts in support of the government's contingency plan for COVID-19, with support from WHO, OCHA and UNICEF.

Many partners already supporting with risk communication, sharing of key messages, community engagement, hygiene promotion, provision of hand-washing and sanitary facilities in clinics and hospitals, training and supply of face masks, and tents for isolation and treatment of patients.

The World Bank and WHO will be conducting a rapid risk assessment of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)'s readiness to be conducted from next week.

Risk communication and community engagement

WHO Philippines has a dedicated website on COVID-19, where partners can download all relevant information, including all situation reports:

<https://www.who.int/philippines/emergencies/covid-19-in-the-philippines>

All official DOH communication materials are available at:

<https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCov/infographics> and

<https://www.doh.gov.ph/COVID-19/Gabay-sa-Publiko>

All partners are encouraged to support in the sharing of correct information and to debunk 'fake news' by pointing at the use of only reliable and verified information sources.

Background

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was alerted to a cluster of pneumonia patients in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. One week later, on 7 January 2020, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19) as the cause.

Epidemiological evidence shows that COVID-19 can be transmitted from one individual to another. During previous outbreaks due to other coronaviruses, including Middle-East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV), human-to-human transmission most commonly occurred through droplets, personal contact, and contaminated objects (fomites). The modes of transmission of COVID-19 are likely to be similar.

The precise zoonotic (animal) origin of the COVID-19 is still uncertain. The virus has been identified in environmental samples from a live animal market in Wuhan, and some human cases have been epidemiologically linked to this market. Other coronavirus, such as SARS and MERS, are also zoonotic, and can be transmitted from animals (civet cats and dromedary camels, respectively) to humans.



Surveillance

DOH has intensified its surveillance systems to actively look for clusters of cases of COVID-19. Epidemiological Surveillance Units (ESU) at municipal, city, provincial and regional level conduct case investigation and contact tracing, while continuously conduct Event-based (or rumour-based) investigations, searching for clusters of diseases of unknown origin and/or pneumonia-like illness.

DOH' Epidemiology Bureau (EB) and its ESUs are working in close collaboration with LGUs to trace possible contacts of confirmed cases, using passenger manifests of public transport means including flights, ferries and buses, often led by the DOH' Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ).

WHO has been supporting EB with the review of guidelines, contact tracing, and collection of key information from overseas Filipinos in other countries through the official International Health Regulation (IHR) channels. WHO is also facilitating the use of Go.Data, an outbreak investigation tool for field data collection during public health emergencies.

Points of entry

BOQ has put temperature screening in place at all airports and ports in the Philippines and is coordinating the tracing of passengers on transport means known to have been used by confirmed cases. BOQ is trained and equipped to detect and handle ill passengers in accordance with DOH and WHO guidelines.

Rapid response teams

DOH' Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (EREID) unit has rapid response teams (RRT) in place at all 17 regional DOH' Centres for Health Development (CHD). EREID RRTs have been trained in case investigation, EREID hospital assessments, joint risk assessment tools for zoonotic diseases (in close collaboration with Department of Agriculture Regional Field Offices), and proper use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). RRT have been mobilised to support with contact tracing and community engagement in close collaboration with LGUs.

National laboratory system

Thanks to rapid mobilisation of critical laboratory supplies from the Japanese government and WHO, RITM currently has the testing capacity for 300 samples per day for COVID-19. Tests conducted at RITM were verified for quality assurance at the reference public health laboratory for infectious diseases in Victoria, Australia.

To expand testing capacity for COVID-19 in the country, RITM trained laboratory technicians of the five identified sub national laboratories (Baguio General Hospital and Medical Centre, San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, Lung Centre of the Philippines in Quezon City, Southern Philippines Medical Centre in Davao and Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Centre in Cebu) and the National Institute of Health Central Laboratory of the University of the Philippines (UP-NIH) on 4-6 March 2020.

Further on-the-job training is being conducted once all laboratories have received the necessary testing reagents and consumables.

Infection prevention and control


Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) assessment ongoing to ensure readiness of designated infectious disease hospitals to receive and treat COVID-19 patients.






Training of Trainers is planned for 20 designated public hospitals in the country, aimed at reaching all front-line health workers of both public and private health care facilities with refresher training on IPC. UNICEF, WHO and other donors are currently looking at the planning and funding for these workshops.




the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) developed SOP for its 129 ambulances, and PPE kits have been made available for priority ambulance crews. PRC prepositioned over 7,500 PPE sets in its regional warehouses.

Case management and continuity of essential services

DOH is regularly updates its guidelines on COVID-19 in view of the dynamic situation, which are all available online at <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCov/interim-guidelines>


UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND REFERRALS OF SUSPECTED AND CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES UNDER CODE RED

	<p>All Municipal and City Health Offices are directed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • triage and manage all patients suspected to have COVID-19 according to previously issued guidelines • coordinate with their respective Barangay Emergency Health Response Teams for monitoring those requiring home quarantine
	<p>All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are directed to attend to all patients suspected to have the COVID-19 and those confirmed COVID-19 with mild symptoms.</p>
	<p>All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are encouraged to designate a triage area in their Emergency rooms for screening suspected COVID-19</p>
	<p>Only confirmed COVID-19 patients that are severe and critical shall be referred to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, San Lazaro Hospital, and Lung Center of the Philippines.</p>
	<p>All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are reminded to not refuse patients suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19. To reiterate the PHIC Advisory No. 2020-012, refusal to provide care to said patients shall be considered a violation of the signed Performance Commitment and shall be dealt with by the Corporation accordingly.</p>

[f OfficialDOHgov](#) doh.gov.ph
[@DOHgovph](#) 8-651-7800 local 1149/1150

Logistics, procurement, and supply management

WHO is supporting DOH with the procurement and mobilisation of PPE and essential laboratory supplies.

UNICEF has mobilised 44 tents for triage and isolation purposes, as well as 44 disinfection kits.

PRC has 30 medical tents available to be used as isolation and treatment units.

Resource mobilization

	Committed in USD*	Details
ADB	100,000	
UNICEF	224,000	Tents, training and planning workshops
USAID	700,000	Laboratory supplies, risk communication, IPC, surveillance, planning, training
WHO	250,000	Laboratory supplies, PPEs, mobilization of experts, training of trainers and planning workshops

* Up to 11 March 2020