

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 111, Cambodia 3, China 147, French Polynesia 562, Guam 375, Japan 3 533, Republic of Korea 541, Malaysia 2 369, Mongolia 2, New Zealand 25, Northern Mariana Islands 5, Papua New Guinea 7, Philippines 17 530, Singapore 88, Solomon Islands 1 and Viet Nam 4).
- 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.

Epi update

COVID-19

Member States	Cases	Deaths
16	23 303	500
countries or areas reporting cases in the past 7 days	past 7 days	past 7 days
19	636 576	13 842
countries or areas reporting ZERO cases for more than 7 days	cumulative cases	cumulative deaths

Deployments

COVID-19
response

229	135	43	22	29
total deployments	deployments completed	actively supporting country offices	actively supporting regional office	currently supporting remotely

Supplies and logistics

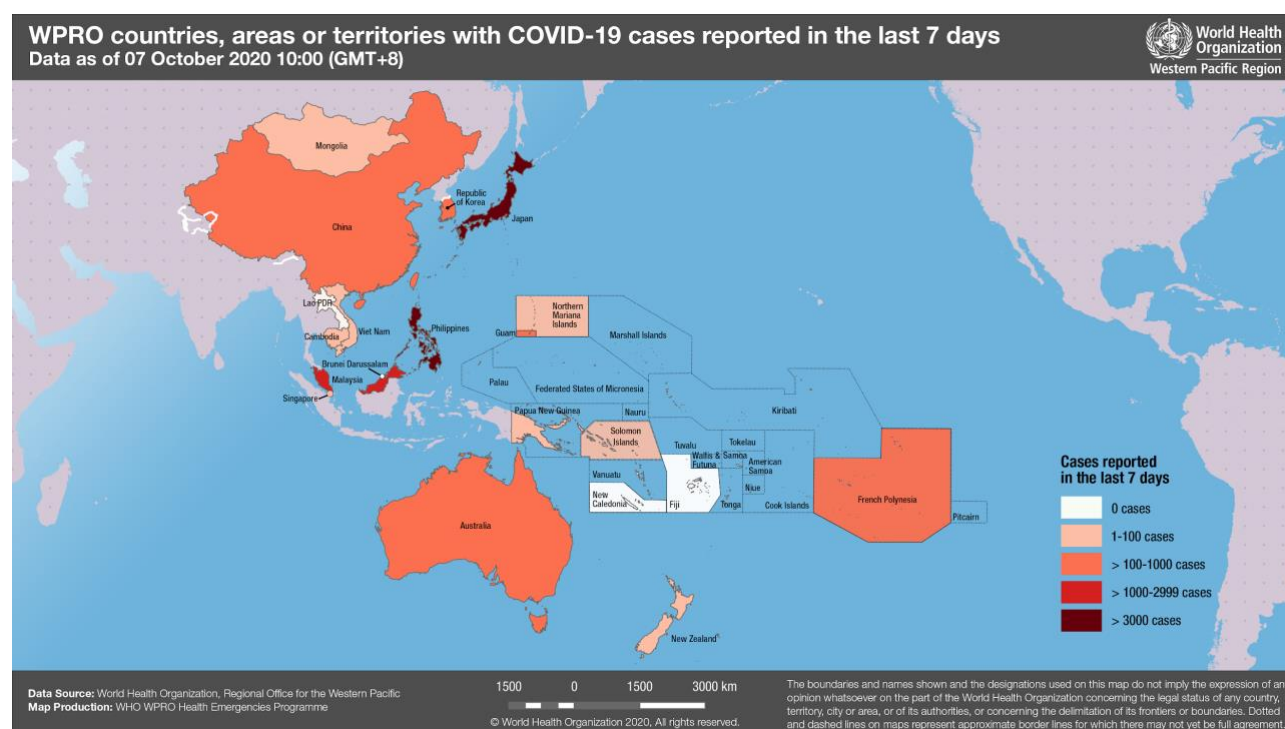
Personal protective equipment for health workers shipped to 21 countries or areas (as of 7 October 2020)

							
16 470 700	1 614 715	387 129	289 717	709 560	20 379	892 201	333 792
surgical masks	particulate respirators	medical gowns	goggles	face shields	bottles (100mL) alcohol-based hand rub	pairs of gloves	laboratory tests shipped

Weekly situation updates

- In the WPR, 20 countries/areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 30 September and 6 October 2020, a total of 25 303 cases with 500 deaths have been reported, for a cumulative 636 576 cases with 13 842 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 2.2%) as of 7 October 2020, 10:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries or areas in the WPR have identified imported cases¹ or localized community transmission. Papua New Guinea is believed to have large-scale community transmission, while in the Philippines there is community transmission in all regions with three regions - National Capital Region, Region 3, and Region 4A – showing higher transmission intensity and indications of widespread community transmission. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases reported in the last seven days.
- Globally, 35 347 404 COVID-19 cases with 1 039 406 deaths have been reported in 217 countries or areas (2.9% PFC) as of 5 October 20:00 CEST. New cases continue to increase in countries or areas of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region and European Region, while the trend continues to be stable in the Region of the Americas (outside the United States) and decrease in the African Region and the South-East Asian Region.

Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)



¹ 0-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 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

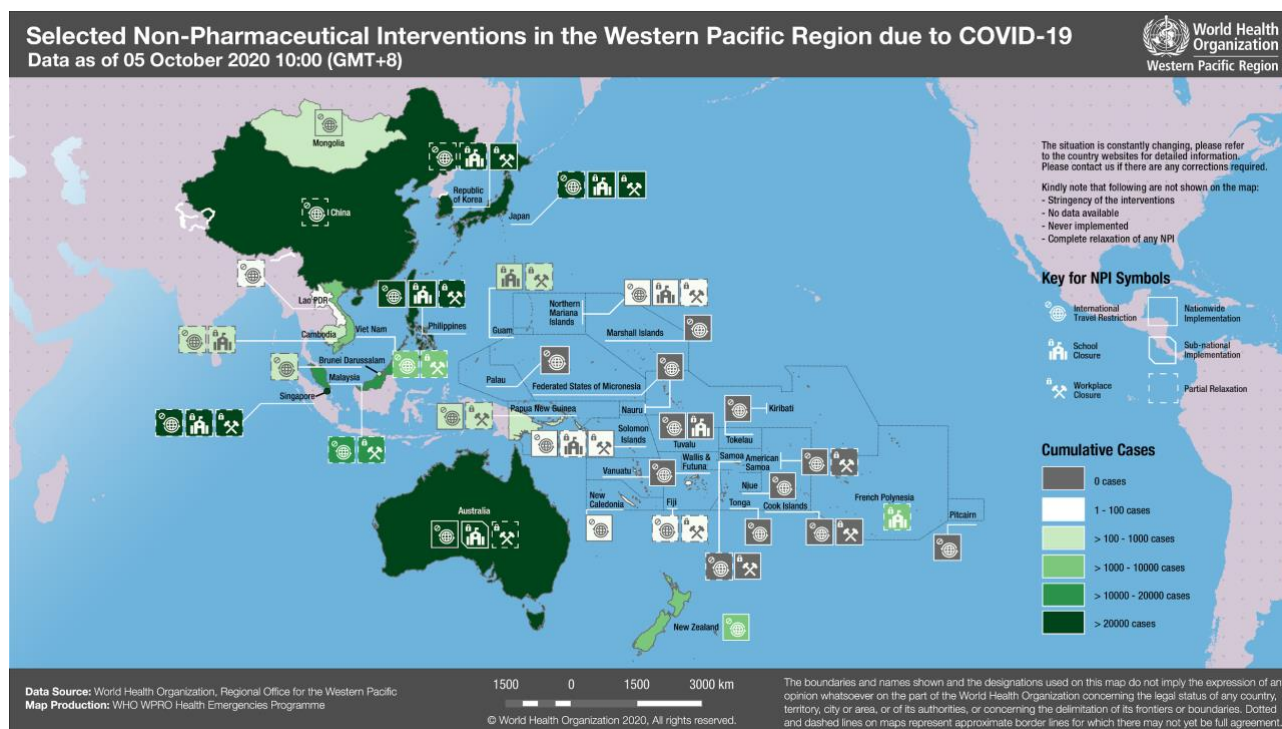


Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with >5 000 cases, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

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

Excluding clinically-diagnosed cases in China

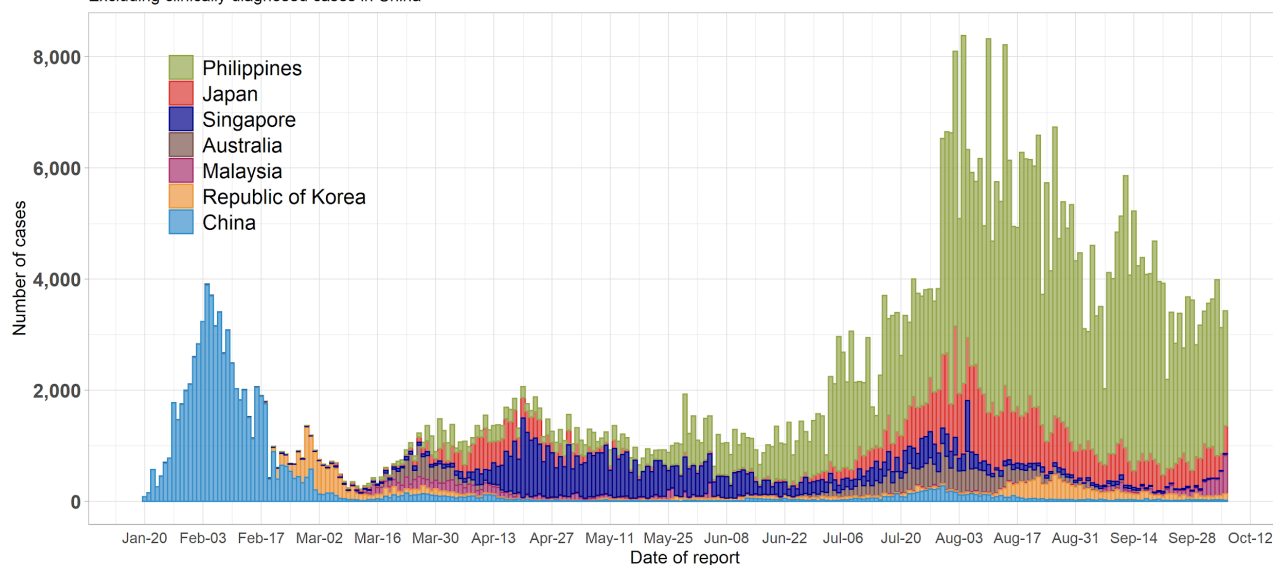


Figure 4. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with <5 000 cases, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8)

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases in 13 countries with small number of cases in WPR

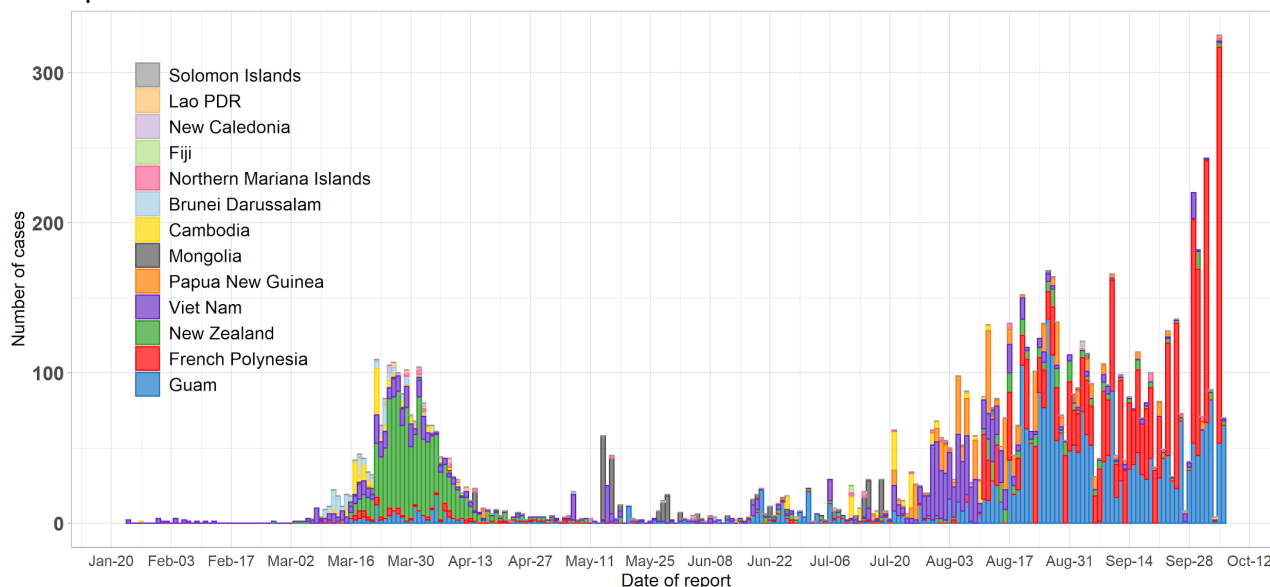


Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 30 September to 6 October 2020, as of 7 October 2020 10:00 (GMT+8) (n = 636 576)

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change in 7-day average	Days since last reported case
American Samoa	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Australia	111 (27 174)	13 (895)	-1.43	0
Brunei Darussalam	0 (146)	0 (3)	-0.14	12
Cambodia	3 (280)	0 (0)	0.14	3
China	147 (91 188)	0 (4 746)	2.0	0
Cook Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Fiji	0 (32)	0 (2)	0	27
French Polynesia	562 (2 290)	2 (9)	32.57	2
Guam	375 (2 818)	8 (55)	17.43	0
Japan	3 533 (86 543)	41 (1 605)	41.57	0
Kiribati	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Korea, Republic of	541 (24 353)	12 (425)	-7.86	0
Lao PDR	0 (23)	0 (0)	0	26
Malaysia	2 369 (13 504)	7 (141)	227.43	0
Marshall Islands, Republic of the	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Micronesia, Federal States of	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Mongolia	2 (315)	0 (0)	0.29	0

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change in 7-day average	Days since last reported case
Nauru	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
New Caledonia	0 (27)	0 (0)	-0.14	11
New Zealand	25 (1 505)	0 (25)	1.86	0
Niue	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Northern Mariana Islands	5 (75)	0 (2)	0.57	2
Palau	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Papua New Guinea	7 (541)	0 (7)	0	2
Philippines	17 530 (326 833)	417 (5 865)	2.29	0
Pitcairn Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Samoa	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Singapore	88 (57 830)	0 (27)	-3.86	0
Solomon Islands	1 (1)	0 (0)	0.14	4
Tokelau	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Tonga	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Tuvalu	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Vanuatu	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Viet Nam	4 (1 098)	0 (35)	-3.14	0
Wallis and Futuna	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-

New science

- A recent genetic association study (2) identified a gene cluster on chromosome 3 as a risk locus for respiratory failure upon SARS-CoV-2 infection. This study comprising 3 199 hospitalized COVID-19 patients and controls found that the cluster is the major genetic risk factor for severe SARS-CoV-2 infection and hospitalization (COVID-19 Host Genetics Initiative). The authors showed that the risk is conferred by a genomic segment of ~50 kb that is inherited from Neanderthals and is carried by ~50% of people in South Asia and ~16% of people in Europe today.

² References

Zeberg H., et al. [The major genetic risk factor for severe COVID-19 is inherited from Neanderthals](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2818-3). *Nature*, Published 30 September 2020, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2818-3>

New communications materials



Key information and announcements

Finance and administration

- A total of 229 deployments have been made since the onset of pandemic, 44 of which were added this week. At present, 43 experts are supporting WHO Country Offices, 22 experts are actively supporting the WHO Regional Office, and 29 experts continue to provide remote support.
- Deployments made to WHO Country Offices include one epidemiologist to support China; one Global Outbreak and Alert Response Network (GOARN) epidemiologist, one data management expert, one risk communications expert, and one senior level staff as Officer-in-Charge to support Papua New Guinea.

Health service delivery

Health Systems

- WHO WPRO has held a fiscal space working group meeting with the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for collaboration on debt re-negotiation and budgeting for health systems response for COVID-19 vaccination. The next steps in the collaboration include further analysis of COVID-19 influences on government revenue; health ministries per capita health expenditures; debt load; the importance of prioritizing the health sector for funding; and opportunities for deeper engagement with WB, ADB, IMF and Ministries of Finance.

Mental Health

- On 5 October 2020, WHO WPRO launched a report on [The impact of COVID-19 on mental, neurological and substance use services: results of a rapid assessment](#) including information from 25 participating countries in WPR.

Information and planning

- WHO WPRO has continued the weekly monitoring of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) 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, and subnational transmission level assessment of Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines have been added to the [WPRO dashboard](#).
- WHO WPRO and WHO Headquarters are supporting 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

- WHO WPRO has successfully delivered 300 000 doses of seasonal influenza flu vaccine from Brazil to Mongolia, which saw logistical challenges that involved flying the vaccines 22 000 km through five airports and took six days.
- WHO WPRO has delivered controls for GeneXpert to Tokelau via Samoa.
- WHO WPRO continues to collect 200 Cepheid GeneXpert kits per week from the United States of America for the Pacific. Around 4 480 kits have been received to date, which is 46.4% of the total order.

Partner coordination

- The 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for the Western Pacific is being held virtually from 6 to 9 October. The RC brings Member States together to make key policy decisions for the Region and guide WHO's Secretariat functions. A day prior to the RC meeting, a briefing with partners was held to provide an overview of the Regional Committee and the technical agenda items that were to be discussed during the week. There were approximately 250 partners in attendance at the Partners' Briefing.

Strategic communication

- A new content package related to strengthening participation in contact tracing has been prepared and shared with WHO Country Offices.