

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 18 Western Pacific Region (WPR) countries or areas within the past seven days (Australia 50, Brunei Darussalam 2, Cambodia 12, China 1 240, French Polynesia 264, Guam 50, Japan 31 906, Republic of Korea 2 911, Lao People's democratic Republic (PDR) 3, Malaysia 25 063, Mongolia 120, New Zealand 27, Northern Mariana Islands 3, Papua New Guinea 7, Philippines 12 082, Singapore 209, Viet Nam 11, and Wallis and Futuna 1).
- Seven countries or areas in the WPR that had reported cases in the past have reported no new cases within the past seven days (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu).
- American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu have not reported a case to date.

Epi update

COVID-19

Member States

18

countries or areas reporting cases in the past 7 days

17

countries or areas reporting ZERO cases for more than 7 days

Cases

73 542

past 7 days

1 375 542

cumulative cases

Deaths

1 187

past 7 days

23 808

cumulative deaths

Deployments

COVID-19 response

296

total deployments

217

deployments completed

42

actively supporting country offices

13

actively supporting regional office

21

currently supporting remotely

Supplies and logistics for health care workers shipped to 37 destinations in the Western Pacific Region (as of 27 January 2021)



7 556 850
surgical masks



1 591 495
particulate respirators



441 775
medical gowns



311 410
goggles



740 912
face shields



20 373
bottles (100mL)
alcohol-based hand rub



2 071 500
pairs of gloves



428 832
laboratory tests



121 690
point of care tests



884 817
swabs



40
ICU ventilators



2 096
oxygen concentrators

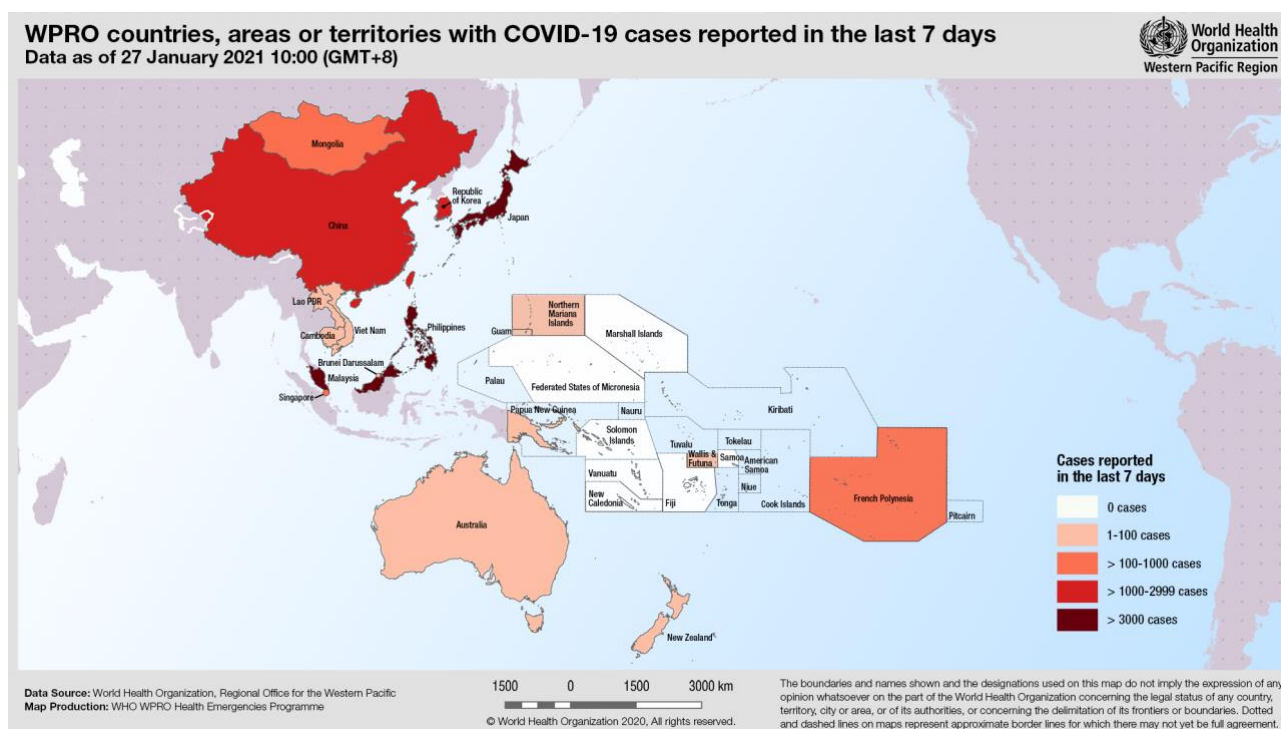


8 546
pulse oximeters

Weekly situation updates

- In the WPR, 25 countries and areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 20 to 26 January 2021, a total of 73 542 cases with 1 187 deaths have been reported, for a cumulative 1 375 542 cases with 23 808 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 1.7%) as of 27 January 2021, 17:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries or areas in the WPR have identified imported cases¹ or localized community transmission. Daily cases continue to increase in Malaysia. Data from French Polynesia and Guam indicate ongoing large-scale community transmission, and there is evidence of widespread transmission in some parts of the Philippines (National Capital Region, Region III and Region IV-A), some areas of Japan (Tokyo) and two provinces of Papua New Guinea (West New Britain and National Capital District). Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases reported in the last seven days.
- Globally, 99 363 697 COVID-19 cases with 2 135 959 deaths have been reported in 222 countries or areas (2.2% PFC) as of 26 January 2021 16:50 CEST. Cases remain relatively high but have plateaued in countries or areas of the African Region, Region of the Americas and the European Region, while the Eastern Mediterranean Region continues to see a slight increase in cases, and a decreasing trend is seen in the South-East Asian Region.

Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 20 January 2021 to 26 January 2021, as of 27 January 2021 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. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with >5000 cases, covering the period from 20 January 2021 to 26 January 2021, as of 27 January 2021 10:00 (GMT+8)

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases in 9 countries with large number of cases in WPR

Excluding clinically-diagnosed cases in China

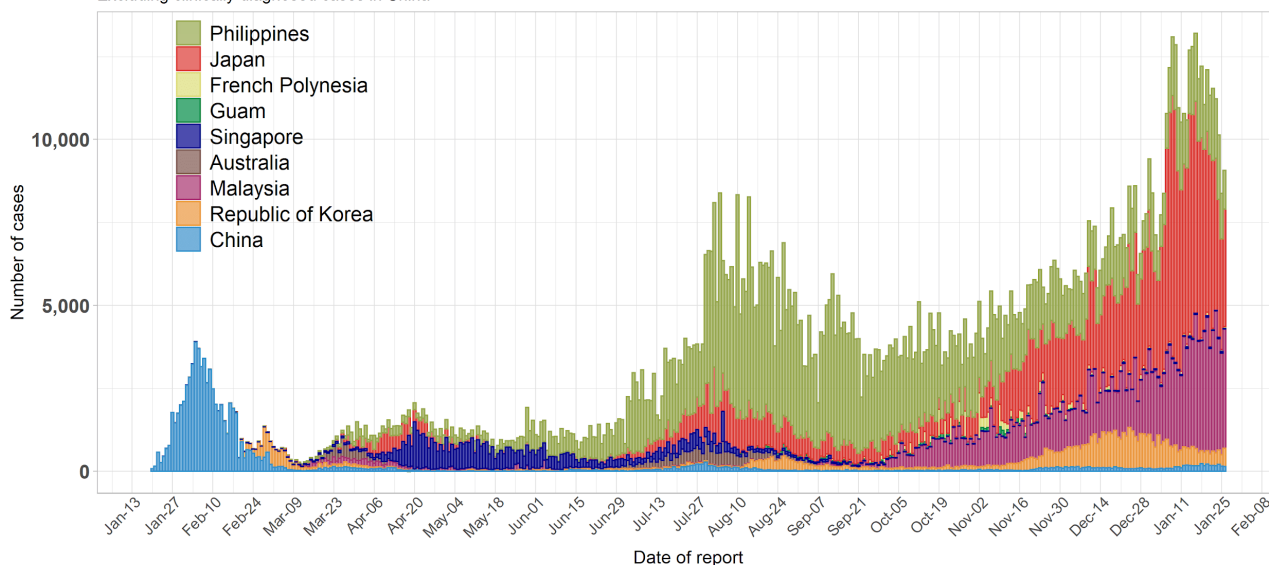


Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with <5000 cases, covering the period from 20 January 2021 to 26 January 2021, as of 27 January 2021 10:00 (GMT+8)

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases in 16 countries with small number of cases in WPR

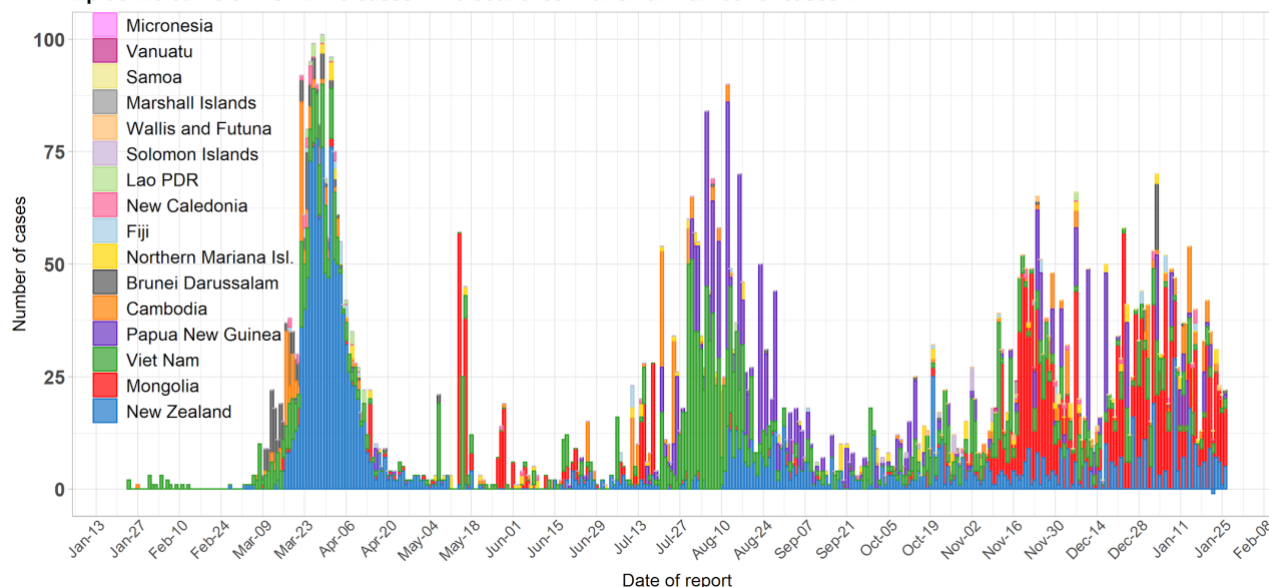


Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 20 January 2021 to 26 January 2021, as of 27 January 2021 10:00 (GMT+8) (n = 1 375 542)

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	50 (28 780)	0 (909)	-6.57	0
Brunei Darussalam	2 (176)	0 (3)	0.29	0
Cambodia	12 (460)	0 (0)	-5.43	1
China	1 240 (100 431)	9 (4 816)	-2.57	0
Cook Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Fiji	0 (55)	0 (2)	-0.29	10
French Polynesia	264 (17 961)	4 (131)	-4.29	0
Guam	50 (7 359)	1 (129)	-2.86	0
Japan	31 906 (371 680)	605 (5 252)	-1 507.57	0
Kiribati	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Korea, Republic of	2 911 (76 429)	78 (1 378)	-57.57	0
Lao PDR	3 (44)	0 (0)	0.43	1
Malaysia	25 063 (190 434)	81 (700)	175	0
Marshall Islands	0 (4)	0 (0)	0	70
Micronesia (Federal States of)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0	18
Mongolia	120 (1 656)	1 (2)	5.71	0
Nauru	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
New Caledonia	0 (44)	0 (0)	-0.57	11
New Zealand	27 (1 938)	0 (25)	-1.71	0
Niue	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Northern Mariana Islands	3 (132)	0 (2)	0.29	2
Palau	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Papua New Guinea	7 (850)	0 (9)	-1.86	0
Philippines	12 082 (516 166)	408 (10 386)	-106.29	0
Pitcairn Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Samoa	0 (2)	0 (0)	0	56
Singapore	209 (59 366)	0 (29)	-0.29	0
Solomon Islands	0 (17)	0 (0)	0	64
Tokelau	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Tonga	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change in 7-day average	Days since last reported case
Tuvalu	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Vanuatu	0 (1)	0 (0)	0	77
Viet Nam	11 (1 551)	0 (35)	-1.29	0
Wallis and Futuna	1 (5)	0 (0)	0.14	2

New science

- A retrospective cohort study was conducted to assess household transmissibility of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and risk factors associated with infectivity and susceptibility to infection in Wuhan. The study included households of all laboratory-confirmed or clinically confirmed COVID-19 cases and laboratory-confirmed asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections identified by the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention between 2 Dec 2019 to 18 April 2020. Results showed that within households, children and adolescents were less susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection but were more infectious than older individuals. Presymptomatic cases were more infectious and individuals with asymptomatic infection less infectious than symptomatic cases. These findings have implications for devising interventions for blocking household transmission of SARS-CoV-2, such as timely vaccination of eligible children once resources become available. ⁽²⁾

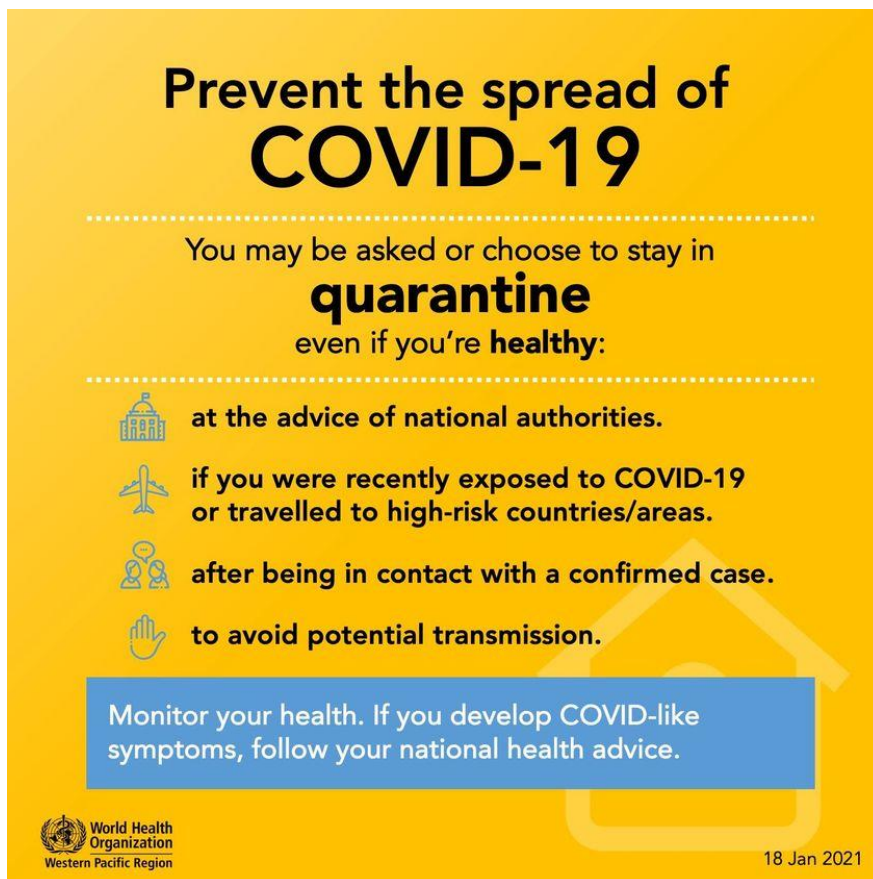
New guidance

- On 22 January 2021, WHO Headquarters published [Online global consultation on contact tracing for COVID-19, 9-11 June 2020](#). COVID-19 has heavily emphasized the importance of contact tracing for managing outbreaks, including as part of the strategy for adjusting, and eventually lifting, lockdowns and other stringent public health and social measures. As the pandemic develops further, it will be a core measure to manage further waves of infection. In early June 2020, WHO convened an online global consultation on contact tracing in the context of COVID-19, looking at the lessons of the pandemic to date; known and emerging best practices; and the measures necessary for urgent implementation, scale-up, maintenance and enhancement of contact tracing activities. This report captures the meeting deliberations and key recommendations of WHO and Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) COVID-19 response stakeholders, addressing ways to strengthen the contact tracing response and review operational experiences together to further improve collaboration and coordination between partners.
- On 19 January 2021, WHO Headquarters published [Messenger ribonucleic acid \(mRNA\)-1273 vaccine \(Moderna\) against COVID-19 background document \(draft\)](#) was shared by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization Working Group on COVID-19 vaccines on 19 January 2021 to provide information on general considerations on mRNA vaccines including the characteristics, efficacy, and safety of the Moderna mRNA-1273 COVID-19 vaccine.

² References

Li, F., et al (2021). [Household transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and risk factors for susceptibility and infectivity in Wuhan: a retrospective observational study](#). *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. Published 18 January 2021. doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(20\)30981-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(20)30981-6)

New communications materials



Quarantine helps limit the spread of #COVID19. Your national health authority may ask you to stay home or at a designated centre for a certain period of time to help #BreakTheChain of #coronavirus transmission.

Share on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Key information and announcements

Finance and administration

- A total of 296 deployments have been made in the WPR since the onset of the pandemic. At present, 42 experts are supporting WHO Country Offices, 13 experts are supporting the WHO Regional Office from Manila and 21 experts continue to provide remote support.

Health service delivery

- [WHO COVID-19 vaccination training course for health workers](#) is now open. This open course, primarily for frontline health workers, provides general information on COVID-19 and specific information on storage, handling and administration of the vaccine, recording and monitoring including for adverse events following immunization (AEFI), and communication (acceptance and demand) through a series of short video lectures and quizzes. Completion of the course takes approximately three hours.

- WHO is seeking comments on draft proposals for inclusion in *The International Pharmacopeia* on [remdesivir](#), [remdesivir intravenous infusion](#), and [oxygen](#). Comments are open to the public and the deadline for submission is 28 February 2021.

Information and planning

- WHO WPRO is continuing to monitor incidence of COVID-19 and transmission levels within countries and areas across the region. Updated information is available on the [WPRO dashboard](#).

Operations support and logistics

- In the past week, the Operations support and logistics team in WPRO has provided the following support to Member States:
 - WHO WPRO provided 2 500 reagent test kits of 96 tests were dispatched to Cambodia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Malaysia, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea;
 - A purchase order for 50 000 Genexpert cartridges has been finalized to support testing capacity in the Pacific;
 - Four hundred thousand universal transport medium kits were dispatched from the regional stockpile to Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, weighing a total of eight tons;
 - Seventy five intensive care unit ventilators are being dispatched to the Department of Health of the Philippines in two batches this week.
- Some supplies, including 500 000 gowns from Cambodia destined to the Regional Stockpile in Manila, are being delayed due to the lack of availability of empty shipping containers in Asia. The team is looking at alternate shipping modes and alternate sources of shipping containers.
- The green light to import 10 000 finger pulse oximeters into the Philippines has been granted by the Philippines customs authorities. They are due to arrive between 8 to 14 February 2021.
- The regional stockpile is preparing to receive 120 000 kilos of medical supplies including personal protective equipment and biomedical equipment measuring over 100 cubic meters, packed on close to 500 pallets.

Strategic communications

- In the WPR, the priority continues to be the provision of support to Member States in communicating about COVID-19 vaccines. WHO is partnering with UNICEF and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to provide this support. A series of six webinars for government and partner communication and community engagement professionals will be rolled out from early February. Spokesperson training will also be available. Relevant government counterparts interested in participating in this training, or in accessing related content and guidance, should please contact their local WHO office.