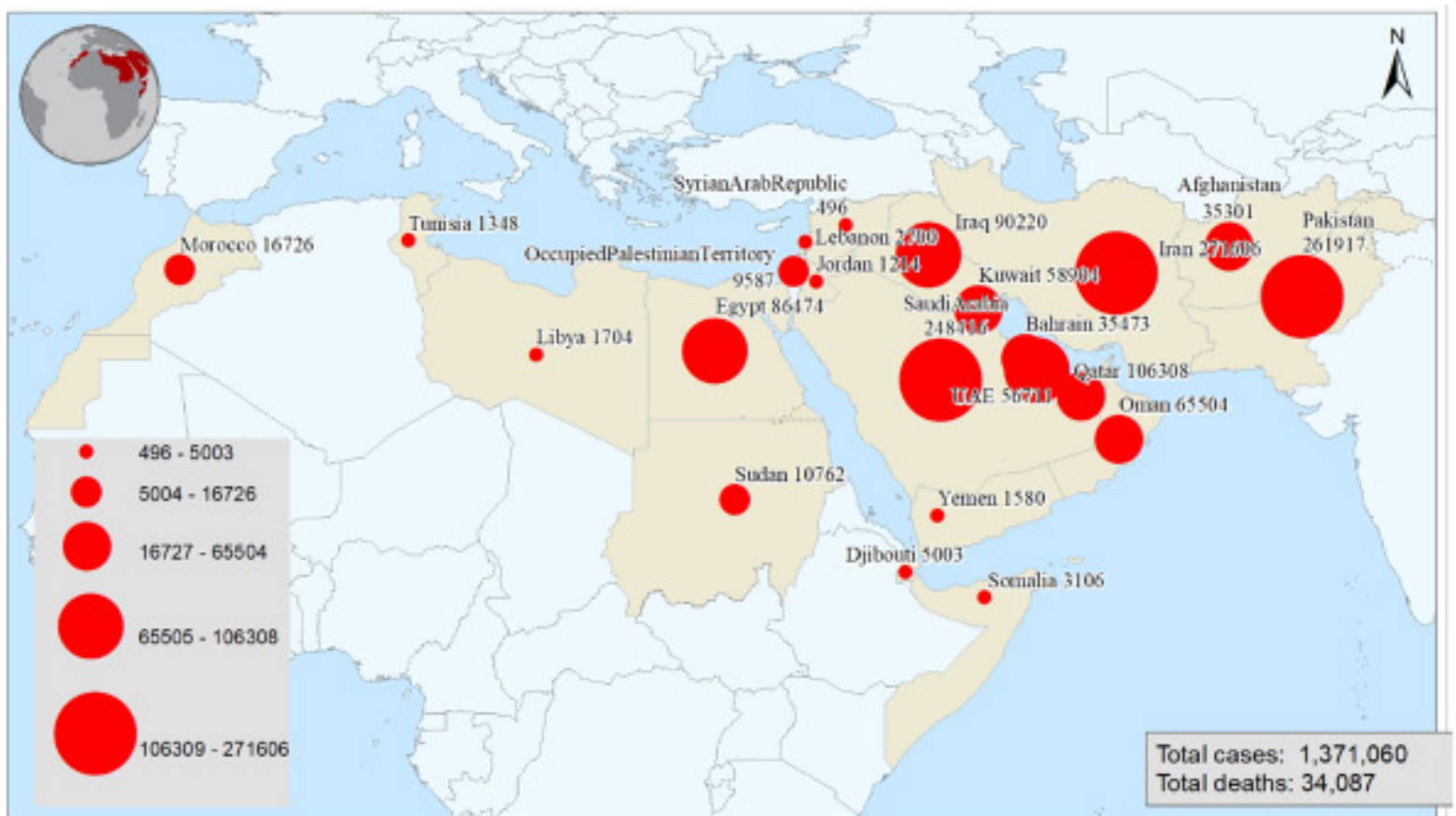




<b>22</b>	<b>1 371 060</b>	<b>34 087</b>	<b>1 044 858</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7.5 million</b>
<b>Countries and territory reporting cases</b>	<b>Total laboratory-confirmed cases reported (8% increase from previous week)</b>	<b>Total deaths reported (12% increase from previous week)</b>	<b>Total recovered cases reported</b>	<b>Countries in the Region participating in global vaccine and treatment trials</b>	<b>Surgical masks for health workers sent to countries in the Region from the logistics hub in Dubai</b>

**Map 1. Distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths in EMR as of 18 July 2020 (18:00 Cairo time)**



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.

Data source: World Health Organization  
Map production: Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment (HIM) Unit  
World Health Organization



## Key situation highlights

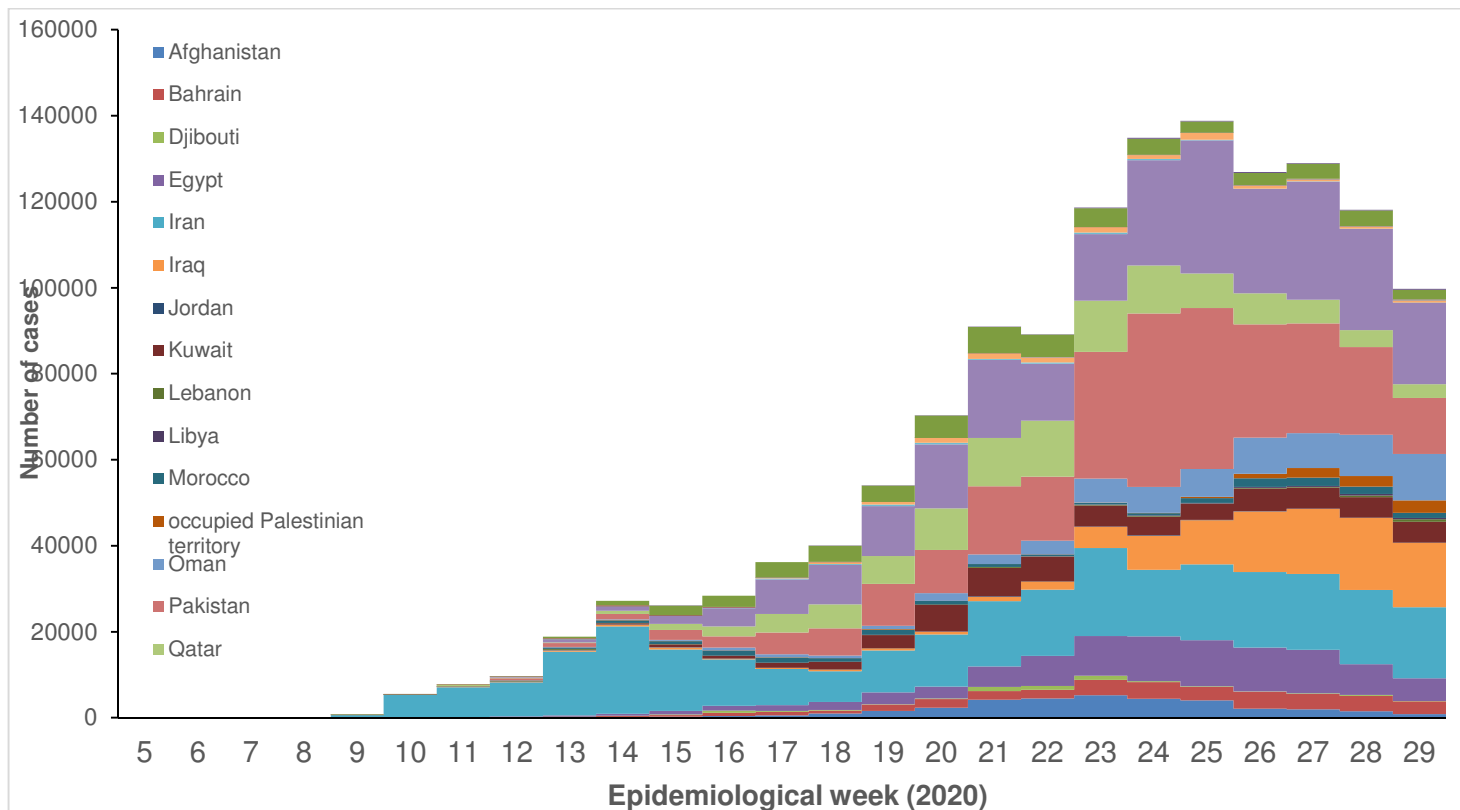
- More than one million patients in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region have successfully recovered from COVID-19 since the first case was reported on 29 January 2020
- Cases in the Region increased from 1,267,177 to 1,371,060 (8% increase compared to 10% previous week).
- Deaths in the region increased from 30,474 to 34,087 (12% increase; compared to 13% previous week).
  - High numbers of cases and deaths reported in the occupied Palestinian territory, mainly from Hebron province.
  - Iran is seeing a stabilization of cases and an average of 190 daily deaths.
  - Egypt has reported the lowest number of cases reported since mid-May.
  - New travel-related cases are reported from Tunisia and Jordan.
- Countries in the Region where public health lockdown measures have been reimplemented in subregional levels, including:
  - Morocco: The city of Tangiers and its population of around one million, has been locked down again since July.
  - West Bank: On 12 July, the Palestinian Authority extended a lockdown of the West Bank that began on July 3, also imposing a curfew.

**Table 1. Regional update of COVID-19 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region as of 18 July (18:00 Cairo time)**

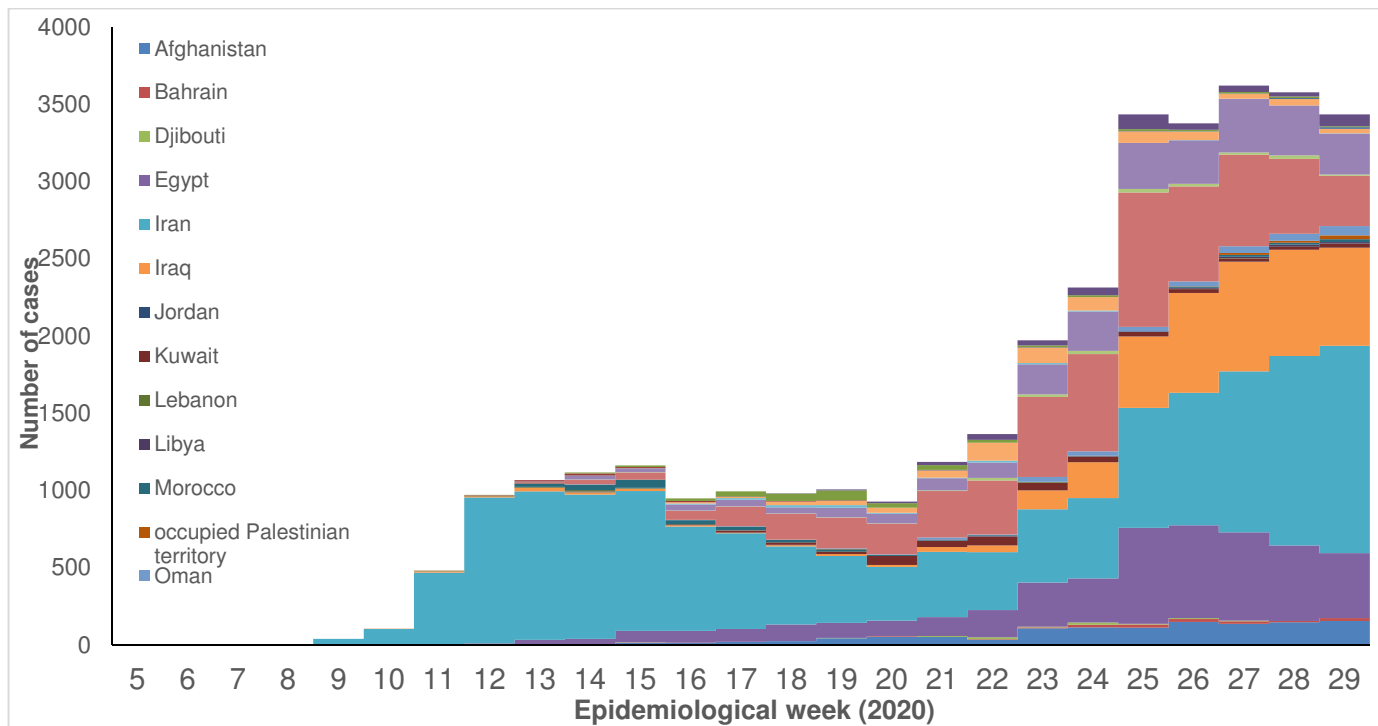
Country	New cases	New deaths	Total cases	Recovered	Total deaths	CFR	Tests/100,000	Positivity ratio %
Afghanistan	72	17	35,301	23,243	1,164	3.3	214	42.5
Bahrain	389	3	35,473	31,188	124	0.3	41,766	5.0
Djibouti			5,003	4,809	56	1.1	5,395	9.4
Egypt	703	68	86,474	27,302	4,188	4.8	387	21.8
Iran	2,166	188	271,606	235,300	13,979	5.1	2,528	12.8
Iraq	2,049	75	90,220	58,492	3,691	4.1	1,932	11.6
Jordan	5	1	1,214	1,022	11	0.9	4,971	0.2
Kuwait	683	3	58,904	49,020	407	0.7	10,686	12.9
Lebanon			2,700	1,485	40	1.5	2,948	1.3
Libya	52	1	1,704	380	47	2.8	626	4.0
Morocco	88	1	16,726	14,360	264	1.6	2,637	1.7
oPt	532	3	9,587	1,770	58	0.6	3,045	6.2
Oman	1,311	10	65,504	42,772	308	0.5	5,225	24.5
Pakistan	1,918	47	261,917	198,509	5,522	2.1	769	15.4
Qatar	410	1	106,308	103,023	154	0.1	15,237	24.2
Saudi Arabia	2,565	40	248,416	194,218	2,447	1.0	7,355	9.7
Somalia			3,106	1,444	93	3.0	48	41.1
Sudan	235	12	10,762	5,668	680	6.3	51	48.5
Syria	19	3	496	144	25	5.0	28	10.2
Tunisia	12		1,348	1,095	50	3.7	703	1.6
UAE	289	1	56,711	48,917	338	0.6	45,106	1.3
Yemen	24	2	1,580	697	441	27.9	14	37.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,522</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>1,371,060</b>	<b>1,044,858</b>	<b>34,087</b>	<b>Med=1.8</b>	<b>Med=2,583</b>	<b>Med=10.9</b>

■ Highest CFR, Positivity >20% – Lowest tests  
■ Lowest CFR, Positivity <5% – Highest tests

**Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 29 Jan – 18 July (18:00 Cairo time)**

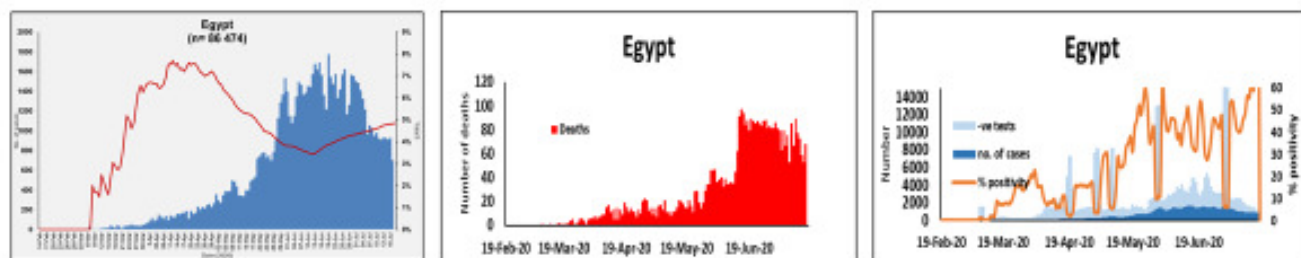


**Graph 2: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 29 Jan – 18 July (18:00 Cairo time)**

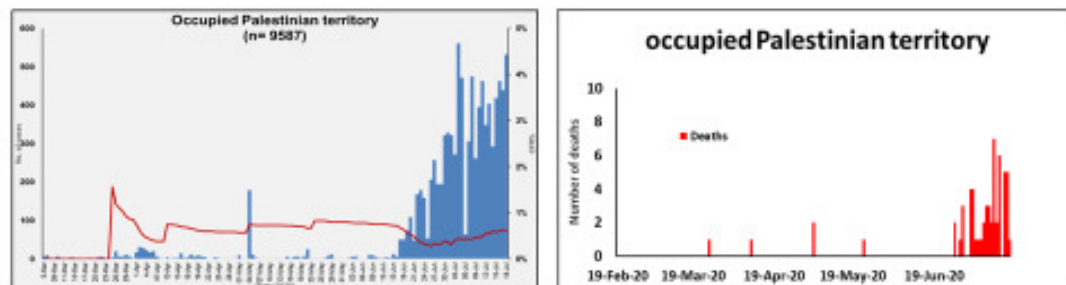


Graph 3: Weekly COVID-19 trend for selective countries 29 Jan – 18 July (18:00 Cairo time)

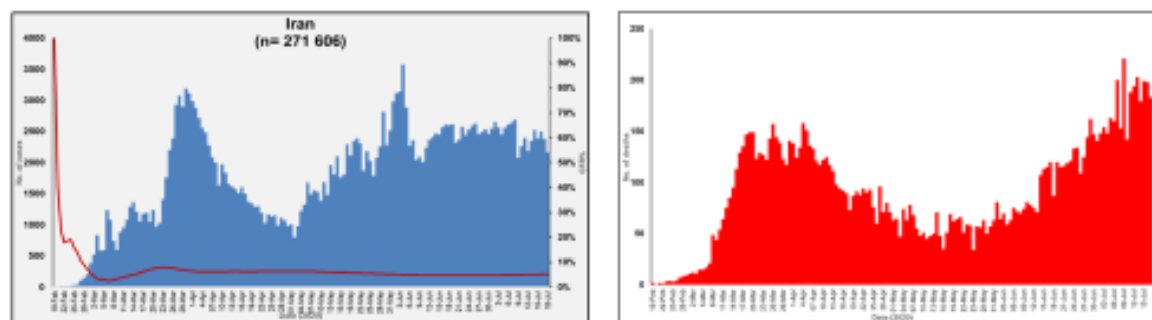
**Egypt: lowest number of cases reported since mid-May**



**Occupied Palestinian territory: High # of cases and deaths reported, mainly from Hebron province**



**Iran: Stabilization of # cases, average of 190 daily deaths**



**Regional response highlights**

- Polio staff across the Region prepared for the resumption of vaccination campaigns for the first time in four months. Vaccinators in Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan prepared to resume activities under new COVID-sensitive protocol, including physical distance between vaccinator and child, limited touch techniques, mask use and an increase in handwashing and sanitizing.
- The sixth webinar of the COVID-19 Laboratory Community of Practice took place on 15 July 2020 with a focus on antigen based rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19. The presentation was provided by Dr Jane Cunningham from WHO Headquarters, and was an opportunity to review the landscape of antigen based rapid diagnostic tests and their performance for COVID-19; as well as discuss key considerations for use. The webinar was attended by more than 180 participants from Eastern Mediterranean Region and African Region.
- The Regional Incident Management Support Team continues to support seroprevalence studies within the unity studies, and assist countries to receive rapid diagnostic tests and Elisa kits. This week, support was focused on Yemen and Afghanistan.



- Early results for the Sero-epidemiology (Unity Studies) have been received from eight districts in Kabul, Afghanistan. Pakistan, other areas of Afghanistan and Jordan have started implementation of the studies, and Yemen, Lebanon, Sudan and Somalia are finalising study protocols. Syria, Libya and Morocco are in the planning phase of the Sero-epidemiology studies.
- A regional bioethics webinar was held on 7 July 2020 with 39 participants (including from: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon, Oman, and Yemen). The main recommendations following the discussion included developing a regional multilingual platform on bioethics and research ethics; mapping regional capacities / activities on biomedical ethics; and encouraging collaboration in Medical Ethics education in the Region.
- Peer reviews of the Research priority in Public Health research grants for COVID-19 research have been completed and a meeting was held to select 20 proposals for recommendation for funding (from 120+ submissions). Six partners in the GAP Accelerator held a second meeting on 14 July 2020 with GAP signatories to continue discussion of plans for a “regional innovation mapping survey” (including concept note and data collection tool).
- The clinical management surge mission in Yemen is now underway. Continued coordination is taking place with Afghanistan, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, and Jordan regarding capacity building for intensive care unit care. The Regional Incident Management Support Team is also contributing to finalization of the on-demand online training for primary healthcare providers
- Updated WHO guidance on maintaining safe and adequate blood supplies during the pandemic outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was disseminated to WHO country offices in the Region through national Infection Prevention and Control focal points.
- The Regional Incident Management Support Team participated in the panel of the weekly US Centre for Disease Control webinar titled “Optimizing PPE Use during COVID-19”, which was attended by 360 participants.
- Two virtual meetings with Syria and Egypt were held to present the case-control and surveillance protocols for infected health care workers.
- The Regional Incident Management Support Team is finalizing a Skill Drill simulation exercises for Rapid Response Teams. Discussions are ongoing with HQ TLS (Training and Learning Solutions) and WHO AFRO on collaboration for future trainings and capacity building to train, engage and retain Rapid Response Teams.
- Three new entries were added to WHO’s Interim Guidance on Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Waste Management for COVID-19 (July 6): a) surveillance of COVID 19 virus in wastewater; b) use of public pools and beaches; and c) water quality and quantity requirements for handwashing.
- WHO and UNICEF launched the [Hand Hygiene for All Global Initiative](#).
- An Arabic version of the [mental health and psychosocial support platform](#) has been launched. A rapid assessment of impact of COVID-19 on mental health and psychosocial support services delivery has been completed and data is being analyzed to develop a regional report. Mental health and psychosocial support working groups are active in all Level 3 countries in addition to Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon.
- Ongoing discussions are taking place with Morocco to hold a round table discussion with policy makers on the future of the health system post COVID-19.
- An online workshop of the 3rd Edition of Patient Safety Friendly Hospital Framework was held. Online training on Role of primary health care during COVID-19 has been finalized and is ready to be launched.
- The Regional Incident Management Support Team continues to collaborate with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on a draft joint work plan on the health of migrants and refugees. A draft regional directors’ joint statement and a partnership agreement have been developed. Work with partners is ongoing to develop a concept notes for the 2021 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region. The Regional Incident Management Support Team has initiated collaboration with WHO headquarters and other regions to develop an online course on health and migration.
- The 12th partners weekly situation report on health of refugees and migrants was finalised and disseminated.
- A meeting took place on 16 July with representatives from 11 UN agencies to finalize the Regional Joint Action Plan 2020-2021, which includes numerous joint actions related to COVID-19 response.

- The inter-agency working group for risk communications and community engagement (RCCE) was joined by new members from UNHCR, UNRWA and EURONEWS. The group focused this week's discussion on the area of continuity of care. Efforts are ongoing to align and harmonize RCCE efforts to include polio. Discussions are ongoing to provide support in the area of RCCE to Syria, Libya and Yemen.
- 35 transport requests for delivery of essential COVID-19 supplies to countries have been submitted since 17 May, only four shipments took place so far.
- New global shortages of examination gloves are impacting the ability to fill demand in the Region.

## Challenges

- Limited public health guidance on re-opening points of entry places populations at risk and increases risk of travel-related importation of cases into countries.
- Lack of clarity on airborne transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, especially through air conditioning, requires further studies for more informed recommendations to countries.
- New global shortages of examination gloves are impacting the ability to fill demand in the Region.

## Regional and country response highlights

- [Weekly COVID-19 statement by WHO's Regional Director: Maintaining routine influenza surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [EMRO virtual press briefing on COVID-19](#)(Arabic only)
- [Regional Director press briefing statement, 16 July 2020](#)
- [Regional COVID-19 situation report # 18](#)
- [Regional COVID-19 situation report # 19](#)

Regional [dashboard](#)  
Regional COVID-19 [web site](#)

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