

WHO has issued [guiding principles](#) to minimize the risk of resurgence in COVID-19 cases when countries start lifting the lockdown measures.

The Lebanese authorities with WHO and other health partners are implementing the following 6 key criteria to prevent the escalation of transmission and maintain a steady state of low-level or no transmission:

1. COVID-19 transmission is controlled to a level of sporadic cases and clusters of cases, to maintain the incidence of new cases at a level that the health system can manage.

- Active contact tracing and targeted surveillance are in place (electronic tools, including phone applications for referral and follow-up on cases, and call centre for referral);
- A national framework for the testing strategy is under preparation.

2. The health system and public health capacities are upgraded to enable a shift from detecting and treating mainly serious cases to detecting and isolating all cases.

- Influenza clinics are under provision to increase surveillance capacity.
- 42 community centres have been assessed and are under preparation for isolation of potential COVID-19 positive cases.
- 10 public hospitals are being upgraded and equipped for case management of potential COVID-19 positive cases.
- Health care workers have been trained on infection and prevention control in hospitals and primary health care centres.
- Laboratories performing COVID-19 testing are being upgraded to increase their testing capacity (capacity for RT-PCR testing increased 3 times since the first case was detected in Lebanon).

3. Outbreak risks in high vulnerability settings are minimized.

- Hygiene and infection prevention and control awareness campaigns are being disseminated (text and audio messages were translated to different languages and contextualized).

- Support is provided to reach the most vulnerable population (including refugees in camps and informal settlements) with hygiene, infection prevention and control kits and personal protective equipment.

4. Workplace [preventive measures](#) are established.

- Progressive relaxation of lockdown is adapted and lifting of restrictive measures will be implemented in 5 phases spread over 6 weeks.
- Decrees related to workplace preventive measures were issued by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.
- Front line health workers at primary health care centres and hospitals have been trained on screening and triage in order to reduce risk of disease transmission.

5. Risk of [imported cases](#) is managed.

- All points of entries are closed except for flights bringing repatriates who are all tested with RT-PCR and followed up for 14 days.

6. Communities are fully engaged to ensure that behavioural prevention measures are maintained.

- Information, Education and Communication material have been developed and disseminated.
- Community engagement activities and awareness campaigns have been implemented.

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