

WHO Lebanon Daily Brief on COVID-19

17 February 2020

Highlights

- **No confirmed cases have been reported yet in Lebanon.**
- No new countries reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 48 hours.
- A third death of a COVID-19 patient has been reported outside of China. This individual was a tourist from China visiting France.
- A new case of coronavirus was reported today in UAE bringing the total number of cases to nine. UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention has confirmed that 3 COVID-2019 cases have fully recovered and were released from hospital on 9 and 14 February.
- The region has ten reported cases of COVID-19 – nine in UAE and one non-Egyptian asymptomatic patient in Egypt.
- A technical team headed by WHO Lebanon representative visited Rafik Hariri International Airport to assess the application of IHR point of entry recommendations. The travelers referral system and isolation space are adequate. A refresher training on safety and infection prevention is planned by MOPH supported by WHO for all teams at points of entry.

WHO role in emergency preparedness and response/IHR

- Monitoring outbreak
- Normative guidance
- Technical support for national authorities
- Risk communication
- Filling critical gaps

Situation in numbers as per WHO dashboard

- Globally 71,329 laboratory-confirmed cases (20,752 new)
- Cases reported from **26** countries
- 51,174 confirmed cases in China (20,581 new)
- **1,775** deaths (316 new) (CFR: 2.9%)

Cases details (WHO sitrep)

- 694 laboratory-confirmed cases outside China (171 new)
- **3 death outside China – Philippines, Japan and France (1 new)**

Countries with confirmed (new) cases

China: 70,635 Cases
[International conveyance](#)
[Japan](#): 355 Cases (137)
[Singapore](#): 75 Cases (8)
[Japan](#): 59 Cases (18)
[Thailand](#): 34 Cases (1)
[Rep of Korea](#): 30 Cases (2)
[Malaysia](#): 22 Cases (3)
[Germany](#): 16 Cases
[Viet Nam](#): 16 Cases
[Australia](#): 15 Cases
[USA](#): 15 Cases
[France](#): 12 Cases (1)
[UK](#): 9 Cases
[UAE](#): 9 Cases (1)
[Canada](#): 7 Cases
[India](#): 3 Cases
[Italy](#): 3 Cases
[Philippines](#): 3 Cases
[Russian](#): 2 Cases
[Spain](#): 2 Cases
[Belgium](#): 1 Cases
[Cambodia](#): 1 Cases
[Egypt](#): 1 Cases
[Finland](#): 1 Cases
[Nepal](#): 1 Cases
[Sri Lanka](#): 1 Cases
[Sweden](#): 1 Cases

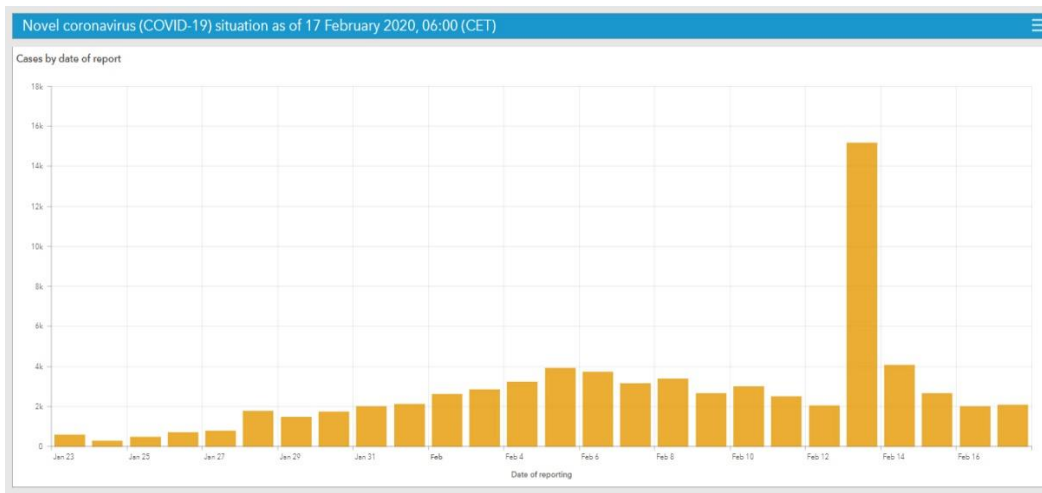


Figure 1 Progress of new infections daily reported (WHO dashboard 17 February 2020)

TIPS

1. The recent emergence of COVID-19 means that understanding of transmission patterns, severity, clinical features and risk factors for infection remains limited, whether about the general population, health workers or in household and other “closed” settings. Studies to assess the epidemiology and clinical characteristics of cases in different settings are therefore critical to furthering our understanding of this virus and associated disease. They will also provide the robust information needed to feed forecasting models.
2. WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travelers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travelers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider.

Questions and answers

Q: There have been comments reported in media that the virus may be transmissible before someone has symptoms. Is this correct? Does this have implications for advice to the public on how to prevent infection?

A: The main driver of transmission, based on currently available data, is people who have symptoms. WHO is aware of possible transmission of COVID-19 from people sick with the virus but before they develop symptoms. Detailed exposure histories are being taken to better understand the pre-symptomatic phase of infection and how transmission may have occurred in these few instances. Transmission from an asymptomatic person is very rare with other coronaviruses, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Persons who are symptomatic spread viruses more readily through coughing and sneezing.

Easy and non-costly way individuals can protect themselves against infection:

- Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleanser.
- Cover your mouth with tissue when coughing or sneezing, or use your elbow when tissue not available.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you have fever and either coughing or have difficulty breathing.

****Beware of criminals pretending to be WHO [for more](#)**

Useful links

- WHO real time [dashboard](#)
- WHO [COVID-19 page](#)
- WHO travel advice ([English/Arabic](#))
- Protect yourself ([English/Arabic](#))
- Q&A ([English/Arabic](#))
- WHO Lebanon [Facebook](#)
- WHO Lebanon [Twitter](#)
- WHO Lebanon [Instagram](#)
- WHO [online course](#) on emerging respiratory viruses, including COVID-19

Important numbers

- MOPH Hotline 1214
- Airport quarantine section 01-629352
- Epidemiological Surveillance Unit 01-614194 | 01-614196
- Preventive medicine center 01-843769 | 01830300