

WHO Lebanon Daily Brief on COVID-19

19 February 2020

Highlights

- **No confirmed cases have been reported yet in Lebanon.**
- No new countries reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 96 hours.
- WHO with support from the Order of Nurses has started a Training of Trainers for nurses working in hospitals in Beirut as clinical educators and/or infection control officers on the topic of Infection Prevention and Control and the proper use of PPEs.
- Lebanon among 20 countries out of 22 in the region who have the reagent kits to test for coronavirus and have the results out immediately.
- Visit our Facebook account for updates on coronavirus from today's press conference by WHO Regional Director and technical experts briefing journalists on the [latest COVID-19 developments](#) followed by a Q/A session.

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 75,203 cases (1,871 new)
- Cases reported from **26** countries
- 74,279 confirmed cases in China (1,751 new)
- **2,009** deaths (136 new) (CFR: 2.5%)

Cases details (WHO sitrep)

- 918 cases outside China (114 new)
- **3 death outside China – Philippines, Japan and France**

Countries with confirmed cases

China: **74,279** Cases
International conveyance (Diamond Princess): 542 Cases (88)
Singapore: 81 Cases (4)
Japan: 72 Cases (7)
Rep of Korea: 46 Cases (15)
Thailand: 35 Cases
Malaysia: 22 Cases
Germany: 16 Cases
Viet Nam: 16 Cases
Australia: 15 Cases
USA: 15 Cases
France: 12 Cases
UAE: 9 Cases
UK: 9 Cases
Canada: 8 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

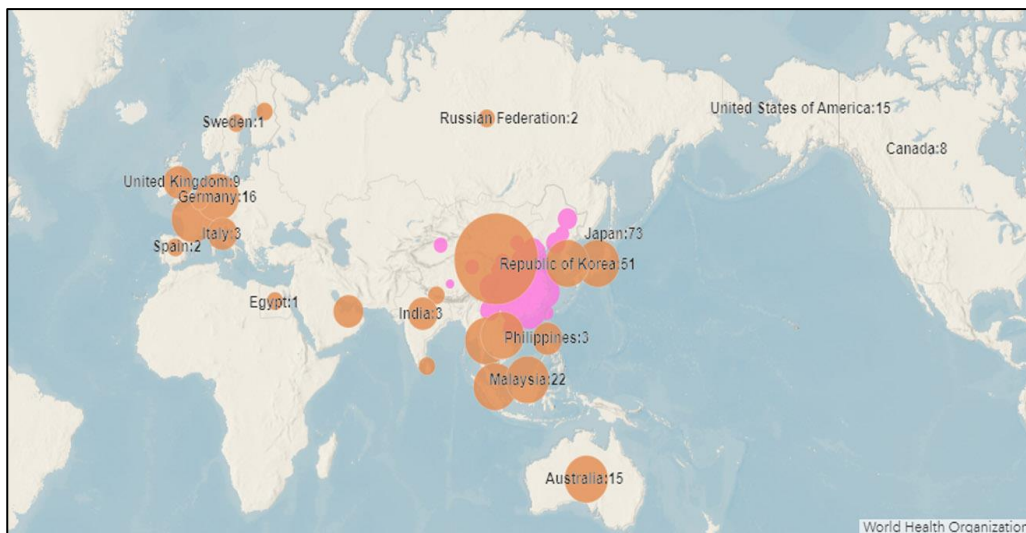


Figure 1 Countries with infections daily reported (WHO dashboard 19 February 2020)

Questions and answers

Q: Can an asymptomatic person transmit the disease?

A: Asymptomatic infection may be rare, and transmission from an asymptomatic person is very rare with other coronaviruses, as we have seen with MERS coronavirus. Persons who are symptomatic will spread the virus more readily through coughing and sneezing.

Q: What are the latest updates on the Egypt case?

A: With regards to the case who is being quarantined in Egypt, the person is still asymptomatic and has so far tested negative through laboratory test which are conducted regularly during the time of quarantine (14 days). This case will remain under monitoring and surveillance until the end of the incubation period.

Q: Is the COVID-19 a lab generated virus?

A: No evidence has shown that the COVID-19 was produced in a laboratory. It is a virus that is zoonotic by nature which means that it originates from animals. The animal source of the 2019-nCoV is most likely bats but the exact species has not been identified yet. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted from animals to people. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

Q: There has been media reports from local TV stations falsely stating that the incubation period is 21 days based on information from China.

A: All evidence show that the incubation period of the coronavirus is between two and 14 days. No further evidence indicates otherwise.

****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