

WHO Lebanon Daily Brief on Novel Coronavirus

08 February 2020

Highlights

- **No confirmed cases have been reported yet in Lebanon.**
- **RHUH reference lab can as of yesterday perform the diagnosis for novel coronavirus**
- WHO confirms two new cases of Coronavirus in the UAE, bringing the total number of cases to seven in UAE – the only country with nCoV in the region. The new cases are a Chinese and a Philippine national.
- One Lebanese man returned to Lebanon from Wuhan by means of strict preventive measures under MOPH IHR team is quarantined since four days in RHUH isolation room. He is still asymptomatic.

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

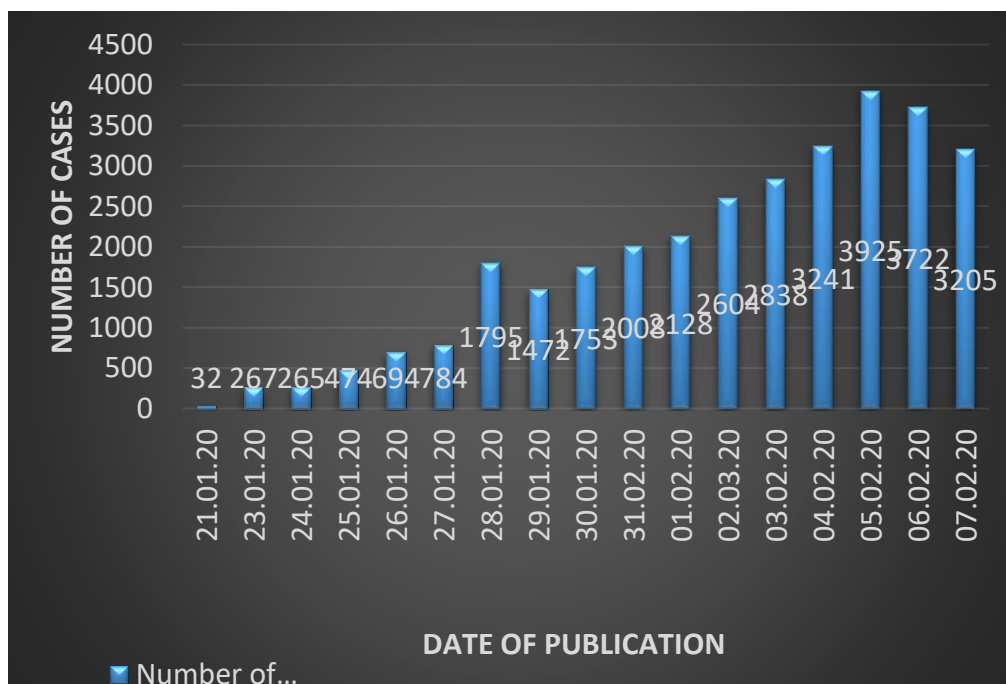
- Globally **34,822** confirmed (3,402 new)
- Cases reported from **25** countries
- 34,598 confirmed cases in China (3,387 new)
- **724** deaths (86 new) 724

Cases details (sitrep)

- 4,821 severe (962 new)
- 270 cases outside China (54 new)

Countries with confirmed cases

China: **34598** Cases
Singapore: **33** Cases
Thailand: **32** Cases
Japan: **25** Cases
Rep of Korea: **24** Cases
Australia: **15** Cases
Malaysia: **15** Cases
Germany: **14** Cases
Viet Nam: **13** Cases
United States of America: **12** Cases
Canada: **7** Cases
UAE: **7** Cases
France: **6** Cases
India: **3** Cases
Italy: **3** Cases
Philippines: **3** Cases
UK: **3** Cases
Russian: **2** Cases
Cambodia: **1** Cases
Finland: **1** Cases
Nepal: **1** Cases
Sri Lanka: **1** Cases
Spain: **1** Cases
Sweden: **1** Cases
Belgium: **1** Cases



Answers to new queries

Q: Does the fact that there may be human to human transmission mean that we are entering a pandemic?

A: The definition of a pandemic is an outbreak of a new pathogen that spreads easily from person to person across the globe. Other coronaviruses including SARS and MERS didn't lead to a pandemic when they first emerged. However, there is still a lot we do not know about this virus and WHO is monitoring the evolution of this outbreak every minute of every day. The world is always between pandemics, and countries must be ready to respond.

Q: When the WHO says the virus could have come from an "animal source", could that in theory include cooked meat/fish as well as possibly all types of animals?

A: It means that it could come from an animal, but when meat/fish is cooked, viruses will be destroyed. The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products, including milk and meat, carries a high risk of infection from a variety of organisms that might cause disease in humans.

Animal products processed appropriately through proper cooking or pasteurization are safe for consumption but should also be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked food. WHO [recommendations](#) on how to reduce risk of transmission from animals to humans.

Q: Is the WHO recommending any particular anti-viral treatment? Some countries reported that the use of anti-HIV drugs is effective, what is WHO's view?

A: So far, we have no evidence that these drugs are useful. There are no specific treatments for this 2019-nCoV and treatment is based on clinical presentation. There are therapeutics under investigation, in the form of observational and clinical trials for MERS-CoV patients. A master global clinical trial protocol for research and prioritization of therapeutics is ongoing at the WHO.

Useful links

- WHO real time [dashboard](#)
- WHO [nCoV 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 nCoV

Important numbers

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

For more information

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