

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Situation Report №1 occupied Palestinian Territory

Data as reported as of 04 February 2020*

HIGHLIGHTS

- No confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV were registered in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) as reported by the Ministry of Health;
- Five confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV were reported in the Eastern Mediterranean region – all in the United Arab Emirates;
- WHO is receiving information about cases from a number of countries. As additional details become known, WHO requests countries to share information in a timely manner as specified in the guidance on [Global Surveillance for human infection with novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#).
- WHO has developed a dashboard for Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) with the number of confirmed cases globally: <http://arcg.is/1rryij>
- Due to the high demand for timely and trustworthy information about 2019-nCoV WHO technical risk communication and social media teams have been working closely to track and respond to myths and rumours; and
- WHO office in the oPt continues to support the Ministry of Health in strengthening its capacity to detect, verify, prevent and manage 2019-nCoV cases.

*The situation report includes information reported to WHO Geneva by 10 AM on 04 February 2020.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS: Total cases (as of 04 Feb 2020*)

Globally
20,630 confirmed

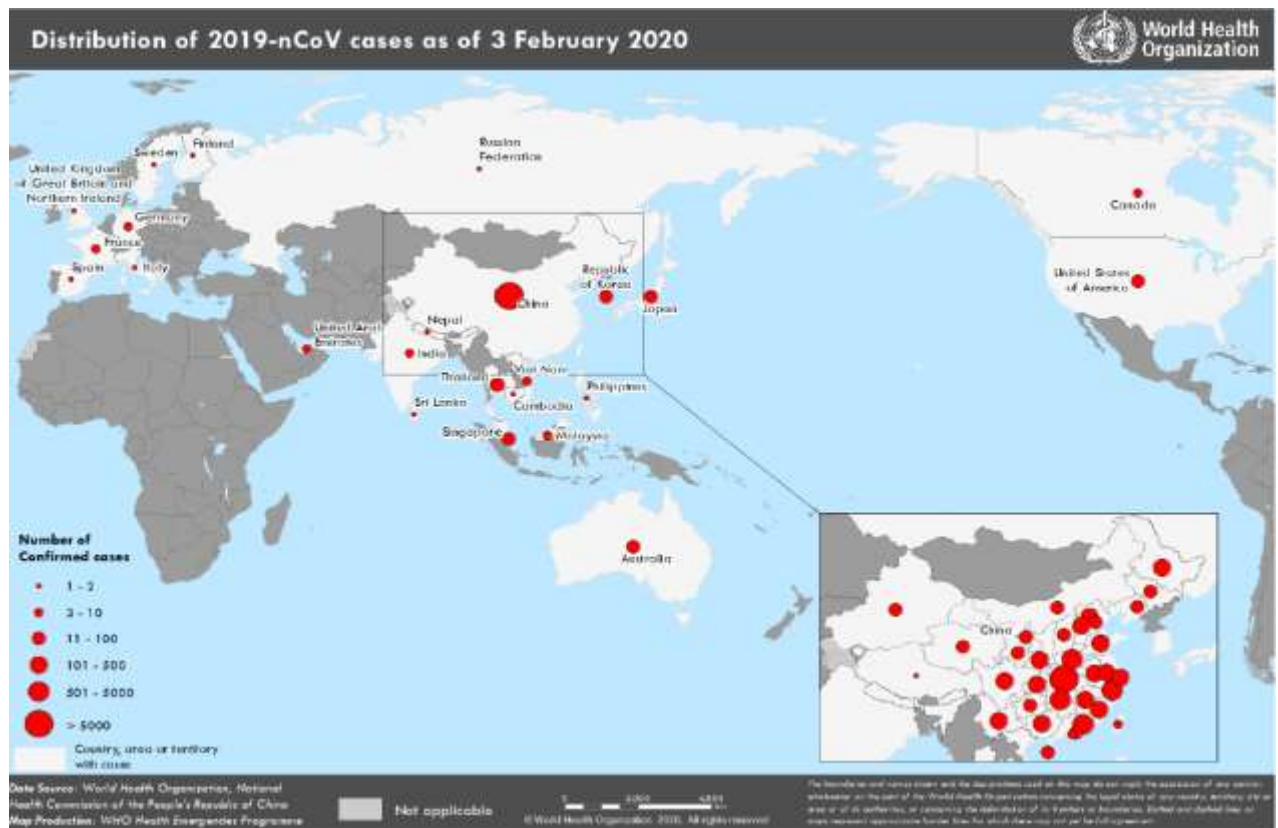
China
20,471 confirmed

Outside of China
159 confirmed
23 countries

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

oPt	High
EMRO Region	High
Global Level	High

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, 3 February 2020



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

- WHO has developed and shared with the PA Ministry of Health:
 - a **protocol for the investigation of early cases** (the "[First Few X \(FFX\) Cases and contact investigation protocol for 2019-novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) infection](#)"). The protocol is designed to gain an early understanding of the key clinical, epidemiological and virological characteristics of the first cases of 2019-nCoV infection detected in any individual country, to inform the development and updating of public health guidance to manage cases and reduce potential spread and impact of infection;
 - an **interim guidance for laboratory diagnosis, advice on the use of masks during home care and in health care settings in the context of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, clinical management, infection prevention and control in health care settings, home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus, risk communication and community engagement and Global Surveillance for human infection with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).**
 - [disease commodity package](#) that includes an essential list of biomedical equipment, medicines and supplies necessary to care for patients with 2019-nCoV;
 - **recommendations** to reduce risk of [transmission from animals to humans](#).
 - a **guidance on early investigations**, which are critical to carry out early in an outbreak of a new virus. The data collected from the protocols can be used to refine recommendations for surveillance and case definitions, to characterize the key epidemiological transmission features of 2019-nCoV, help understand spread, severity, spectrum of disease, impact on the community and to inform operational models for implementation of countermeasures such as case isolation, contact tracing and isolation. Several protocols are available here:



WHO and MoH staff examine the content of the PPE Kit delivered by WHO. Credit: WHO

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>

- The Ministry of Health **conducted meetings of the National emergency committee** in the West Bank and Gaza and agreed on priority actions to prevent and manage the outbreak;
- WHO **delivered personal protection equipment (PPE) kit to the PA Ministry of Health**; additional medical supplies for laboratory detection of 2019-nCoV will be delivered to the Ministry of Health in coming days;
- To **help prevent the spread of the disease and be prepared** for possible importation of cases, the following key measures have been implemented by the health authorities:
 - The national emergency preparedness plan has been activated and priority actions identified;
 - Medical points at King Hussein and Rafah Crossing Points have been capacitated to screen incoming travellers so that appropriate medical and control measures can be taken;
 - Ministry of Health continues to roll-out risk communication activities and disseminate information to public.
- WHO plans to **support capacity building of key staff** in hospitals and primary health care facilities across West Bank and Gaza on detection, case definition, treatment and care of patients based on WHO guidelines; as well as conducting capacity building activities for all staff working in the quarantine facility, including trainings on case definition, case management, surveillance, and infection prevention and control measures. The staff will also be provided with the needed personal protective equipment to ensure their safety.

- WHO is **providing technical assistance in development, printing and dissemination of public communication materials** at the ports of entry in the West Bank and Gaza;

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough;
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider;
- When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals;
- The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.

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 healthcare provider.

Detailed WHO recommendations for public are available here:

In Arabic: <http://www.emro.who.int/ar/health-topics/corona-virus/information-resources.html>

In English: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

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