

HIGHLIGHTS

- 21 laboratories in the World Health Organization (WHO) African region are now able to test for COVID-19.
- Eight countries (Senegal, Malawi, Madagascar, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, Seychelles) have expressed interest in implementing the FFX protocol for early investigation.
- WHO was represented at the emergency meeting of Ministers of Health from the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on 14 February.
- See page two for a more detailed account of preparedness activities

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 24-25 February 2020: Regional partners' meetings are being simultaneously planned in Nairobi and Dakar. The objective is formulating a regional preparedness strategy and coordinate tasks among partners.
- 26-28 February 2020: Training of trainers for case management and infection prevention and control (IPC) specific to COVID-19 for all 23 priority 1 and 2 countries will take place in Brazzaville.
- The WHO Africa region will be represented at the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC). CEMAC is composed of: Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo.

EPIDEMIOLOGIC UPDATE

Global situation (as of 17 February 2020, 6:00am Geneva)

In China¹

Since 31 December 2019, **70,635 cases** (2,051 new lab-confirmed) have been confirmed of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infections. Of those, **60,635** (2,051 new) are confirmed cases. **1,772 deaths** (106 new) have been reported.

Since 13 Feb, Chinese authorities report confirmed cases that include laboratory confirmed cases + cases confirmed based on clinical diagnosis without laboratory confirmation. As of 17 Feb, WHO will report all confirmed cases, including both laboratory-confirmed and clinical diagnosed (only applicable to Hubei province, China).

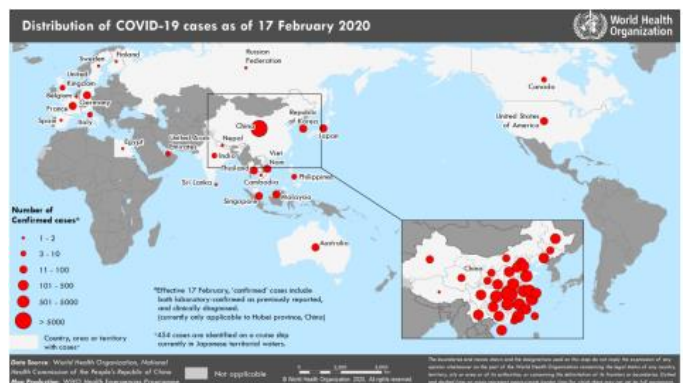
Outside China

Outside of China, **794 cases** (111 new) from 25 countries have been confirmed. New cases in the past 24 hours have been from International conveyance/Japan (99), Japan (6), Singapore (3), United Arab Emirates (1), Thailand (1), and Republic of Korea (1). Three deaths have been reported.

Regional situation (as of 17 February 2020, 17:00 Brazzaville)

No confirmed cases in the WHO African Region.

Status	Number	Countries
Pending alerts	8	7
Discarded alerts	40	24
Total alerts	48	28
Positive cases	0	0
Deaths	0	0



¹ Includes Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, and Taipei Municipality

REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Coordination and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO will be represented at a meeting for Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) this week to discuss COVID-19 preparedness. • A regional partners meeting is planned for 24-25 February. The objective will be to create a regional preparedness strategy and coordinate activities among partners. • WHO AFRO was represented at the Emergency meeting of Ministers of Health of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) on 14 Feb. The Ministers of Health resolved to strengthen key pillars necessary for COVID-19 preparedness and response among Member States. The Ministers resolved to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthen coordination, communication, and collaboration amongst Member States in preparedness for COVID 19 epidemic, particularly cross-border collaboration; ○ Enhance surveillance measures at entry points, air, land and sea; ○ Step up communication to ensure that the public receives accurate, appropriate and timely information regarding the epidemic; ○ Urgently strengthen critical national capacities for diagnosing and managing cases; ○ Develop a strategic costed regional preparedness plan based on Member States' priorities; ○ Promote multi-sectoral national efforts using one-health approach to maximize impact; ○ Implement robust measures to assure availability in the region, of critical medical supplies, including laboratory materials, and personal protective equipment; ○ Work closely with the relevant authorities of National Governments and the Chinese Government to monitor and assure the health situation of any member-state citizens residing in China
Case management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of trainers for case management and IPC for all 47 countries to be held in Brazzaville, (26–28 Feb).
IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing deployments to all priority one countries
Laboratory capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 laboratories now have testing capacity for COVID-19 (Algeria, NEW Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, NEW DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, NEW Mali, Mauritius, NEW Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia) • Shipment of laboratory kits have been deployed to 10 countries; in process for remaining countries
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipment of PPE and other IPC equipment are being finalized for twelve priority 1 countries • Shipment of PPE and other IPC equipment in process for remaining nine priority 2 countries • Replenishment of UNHRD/Accra stock in process for contingency stock
Points of Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening of incoming passengers, and training of health workers, are taking place at all major points of entry
RRTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRT training has been conducted in Ethiopia and is planned for Kenya
Risk communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCCE guidance and SOPs for all technical taskforces in COVID-19 preparedness have been developed (includes hotel managers, airline crew members, points of entry). Guidelines also include a system for misinformation monitoring, rumor management and mitigation. • Training materials for risk communication have been developed for national and subnational level for risk communication teams, rapid response teams (RRTs) and health workers.
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All countries are using WHO COVID-19 interim case definition. Some countries have also extended the clinical syndrome to ARI regardless to the severity aspect. • 28 countries (59%) have shared the surveillance tool to high risk OR all health facilities • All countries have initiated sensitizations, briefing, or training of health workers on COVID-19 surveillance at international airport(s). • 32 countries (68%) have conducted sensitizations, briefings or training of health workers on COVID surveillance at all HFs or selected HFs and/or points of entry (PoE). • 8 countries (Senegal, Malawi, Madagascar, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, Seychelles) have expressed interest in implementing the FFX protocol for early investigation. The FFX protocol is an epidemiological data collection protocol that will help to better analyze the key clinical, epidemiological and virological characteristics of the first cases of COVID-19.
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 experts have been deployed to 10 countries.

KEY DOCUMENTS

NEW

- [WHO COVID-19 Points of Entry and Mass Gatherings](#)
- WHO HQ has released the following protocols: First Few cases transmission; Household transmission study; Risk factors assessment for HCWs; Environmental sampling; Global COVID-19 Clinical Characterization Case Record Form. See [WHO Situation Report #27](#) for more details.

ONGOING

- [Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV \(WHO\)](#)
- [WHO data base on latest scientific findings, knowledge on COVID-19](#)
- [WHO Novel Coronavirus Situation Reports](#)
- [WHO Technical Guidance Documents](#)