

Weekly update on COVID-19

23 April – 1 May 2020



Snapshot
As of 1 May 2020

Confirmed cases

3 145 407

Confirmed deaths

221 823

Countries &
territories affected

214

Public health response and coordination highlights

[Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator](#)

WHO, with heads of states, global health leaders, private sector partners and other stakeholders launched the Access To COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global collaboration to fast-track the development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

[Updated Country Preparedness and Response Status for COVID-19 as of 27 April 2020](#)

WHO published a preliminary categorization of countries to facilitate the global planning process including the identification of the overall response envelope required over time.

WHO, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Inter-Parliamentary Union collaborate to engage Parliamentarians

WHO, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Inter-Parliamentary Union are working in close collaboration to provide parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with key information about COVID-19.

The first webinar on '*lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic: parliamentary action to reduce risks, strengthen emergency preparedness and increase resilience*' was held this week, with 472 parliamentarians from 84 countries participating. The webinar looked at lessons learnt and best practices from this emergency and how to ensure enhanced disaster risk management, including preventive measures and preparedness, for effective response to pandemics in the future.

Technical support for COVID-19 treatment centres

WHO is supporting Italy's Bologna and Puglia provinces design and install COVID-19 treatment centres in hospitals. In Nigeria, WHO has provided technical guidance for a proposed self-quarantine facility in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). WHO has also provided support for the installation of COVID-19 treatment facilities in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Australia.

[The COVID 19 Partner Platform](#)

The COVID-19 Partners Platform was launched as an enabling tool for all countries, implementing partners, donors and contributors to collaborate in the global COVID-19 response. The Partners Platform features real-time tracking to support the planning, implementation and resourcing of country preparedness and response plans. The [COVID-19 Supply Portal](#) has also now been made available through the COVID-19 Partners Platform. It facilitates national authorities and implementing partners supporting them to request critical supplies.

To date, 92 countries have been actively engaged on the Platform 112 "response plans" have been uploaded, with 329 donors entering their contributions.

UN sets out COVID-19 social and economic recovery plan

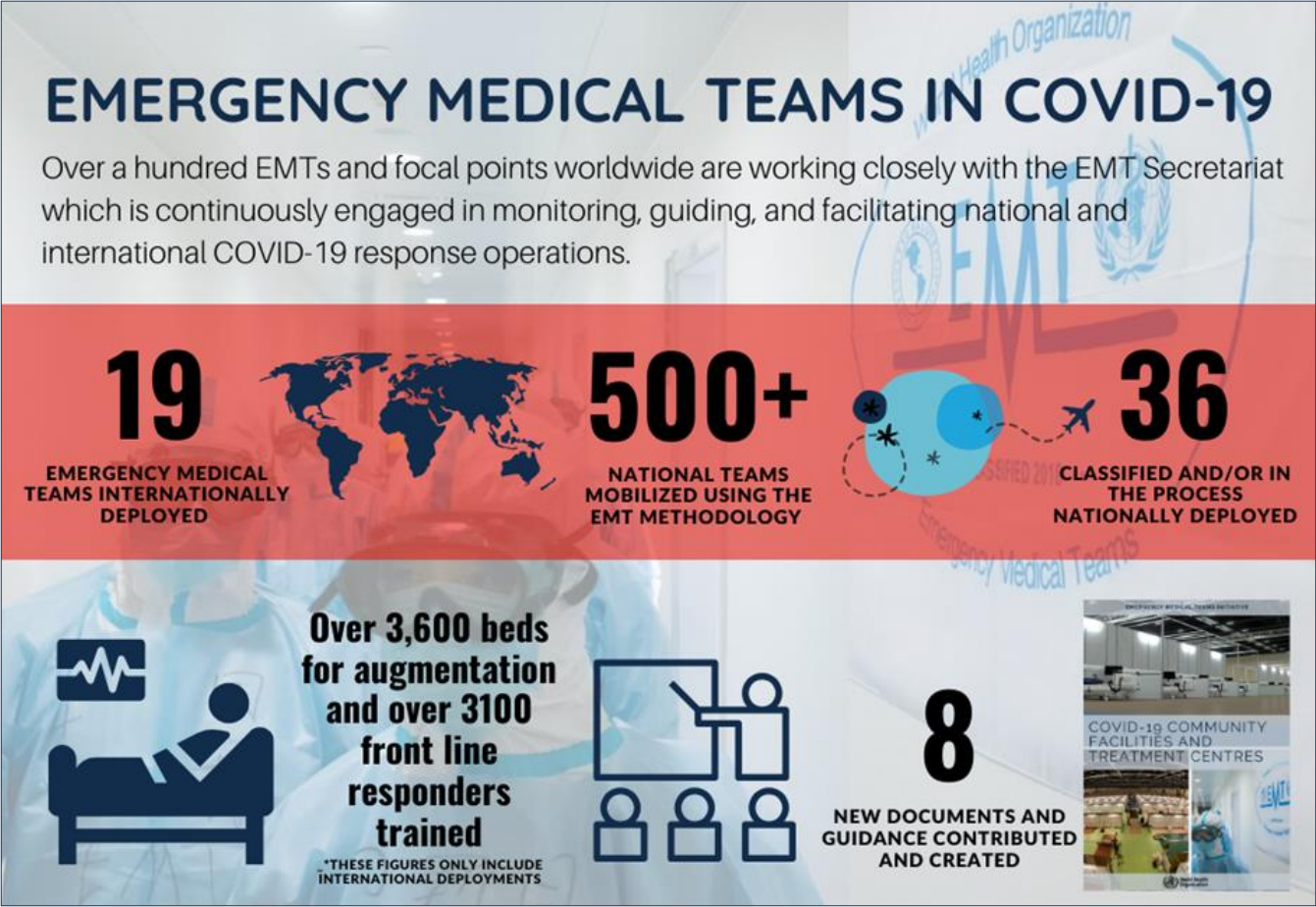
The UN has developed a global framework that provides a strategy for the urgent socio-economic response to COVID-19. It is based on five critical pillars: protecting health services and systems; social protection and basic services; protecting jobs and small and medium sized enterprises, and the most vulnerable productive actors; macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; and social cohesion and community resilience.

GOARN launches a knowledge hub

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) has launched a [COVID-19 Knowledge hub](#). The hub is designed as a central repository of quality public health information, guidance, tools and webinars which can be accessed freely.

Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)

By 27 April, a total of 19 EMTs were internationally deployed and other 36 EMTs were supporting national operations in the response to COVID 19.



Releases

New guidance and guidelines issued and updated

[COVID-19 and Food Safety: Guidance for competent authorities responsible for national food safety control systems](#)

[Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for the COVID-19 virus](#)

Publications

[Strengthening Preparedness for COVID-19 in Cities and Urban Settings](#)

The document was released by WHO to support local authorities, leaders and policy-makers in cities and other urban settlements in identifying effective approaches and implementing recommended actions that enhance the prevention, preparedness and readiness for COVID-19 in urban settings to ensure a robust response and eventual recovery.

[Draft landscape of COVID 19 candidate vaccines](#)

The document lists seven candidate vaccines in clinical evaluation, and 82 in preclinical evaluation

[Ethics and COVID-19: resource allocation and priority-setting](#)

A policy brief that answers a number of questions about the ethics of setting priorities for the allocation of resources during times of scarcity.

Scientific Brief

["Immunity passports" in the context of COVID-19](#)

WHO has currently no evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection, as some governments have suggested that the detection of antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, could serve as the basis for an "immunity passport" or "risk-free certificate".

Read more [Scientific briefs](#)

Strategic Supply Chain

[COVID-19 Supply Chain System: Requesting and Receiving Supplies](#)

A document published by WHO to bring clarity on the process of requesting and receiving globally sourced COVID-19 critical supplies that are currently facing constrained market conditions, through the UN COVID-19 Supply Chain System (CSCS).

COVID-19 supply shipped as of 25 April 2020

SHIPPED	Mask, Surgical	Mask, N95	Gloves, Examination	Gown	Goggles	Face Shield
AFR	1,403,750	24,150	386,300	45,879	6,930	30,910
EMR	351,250	24,020	487,000	69,122	5,020	18,800
EUR	171,080	3,750	189,100	21,148	3,300	1,000
AMR	66,000	1,840	68,000	9,916	1,100	7,100
SEAR	412,000	38,565	340,000	23,400	9,250	11,876
WPRO	151,050	8,050	126,000	6,563	3,703	1,580
TOTAL	2,555,130	100,375	1,596,400	176,028	29,303	71,266

Global Research Highlights

COVID-19 Experimental Treatments

WHO has published the 'R&D Blueprint COVID-19 Experimental Treatments' which lists drug and non-drug experimental treatments for COVID-19.

Solidarity Trial

More than 100 countries have joined the Solidarity Trial in the search of a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19, with 1,200 random patients from the first five countries that joined.

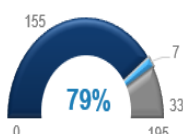
Updates on current research and development

Health Learning

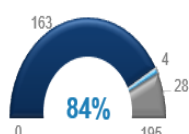
[OpenWHO](#) has launched a new online course on [Standard precautions: Hand hygiene](#). The module summarizes the WHO guidelines on hand hygiene, associated tools and ideas for effective implementation.

Global Indicators (As of 28 April 2020)

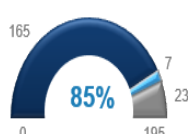
Countries have a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan



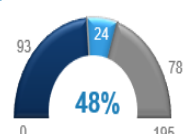
Countries have a functional multi-sectoral, multi-partner coordination mechanism for COVID-19



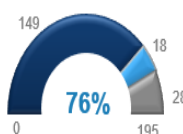
Countries have communicated COVID-19 prevention and preparedness messages to the population



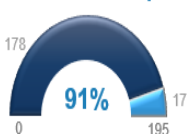
Countries have a COVID-19 community engagement plan



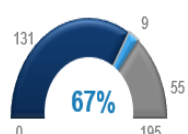
Countries have COVID-19 event-based surveillance



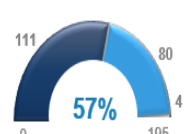
Countries have COVID-19 laboratory testing capacity



Countries have a clinical referral system in place to care for COVID-19 cases



Countries have an IPC programme and WASH standards within all healthcare facilities



1 729 463 ENROLMENTS FOR OPENWHO COVID-19 COURSES

	Outbreak specific	340 427 users (9% increase ^a)
	Introduction to COVID-19	Available in 17 languages
	Health and safety	98 757 users (16% increase)
	eProtect Respiratory Infections	Available in 8 languages
	Interventions: Critical Care for Severe Acute Respiratory Infections	73 536 users (14% increase)
	Interventions	Available in 7 languages
	Interventions	466 121 users (10% increase)
	IPC for COVID-19	Available in 12 languages
	Country preparedness and response planning	424 740 users (4% increase)
	Available in 6 languages	
	SARI Treatment Facility Design	147 456 users (14% increase)
	Available in 1 language	

	Protective Equipment	56 670 users (118% increase)
	Available in 1 language	
	Go, Data Tool	39 811 users (44% increase)
	Available in 1 language	
	Hand Hygiene	27 845 users (NEW)
	Available in 1 language	

INCREASING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE AND COUNTRY UPTAKE OF WHO TOOLS

UNITY STUDIES <i>Transmission dynamics, severity and sero-prevalence</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intention confirmed: 55 countries (AFR 18, AMR 4, EMR 6, EUR 16, SEAR 2, WPR 9) Implementation started: 30 countries (AFR 8, AMR 3, EMR 2, EUR 10, SEAR 1, WPR 6) 	CLINICAL PLATFORM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intention confirmed: 9 countries (AFR 1, AMR 5, EMR 0, EUR 0, SEAR 0, WPR 3) Implementation started: 6 countries (AFR 0, AMR 0, EMR 0, EUR 4, SEAR 0, WPR 2) 	SURVEILLANCE PLATFORM COVID-19 sentinel surveillance by GISRS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentinel surveillance reported: 23 countries (AFR 2, AMR 12, EMR 0, EUR 6, SEAR 0, WPR 3) • Sentinel specimens tested in Week 16: 19 421 • Percent positive for COVID-19: 15.7 %
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Notes

a. Data collected from 194 Member States and 1 territory through the WHO Regional Offices. The term "countries" should be understood as referring to "countries and territories"
b. The indicator for infection prevention and control (IPC) was based on the International Health Regulations State Parties Annual Reporting (SPAR) results from 2019, or 2018 results if 2019 data was not available
c. Incremental percentage compared to last week data

Appeals

Global Strategic Preparedness & Response Plan (SPRP)

WHO has been engaging donors and the public to mobilize support for the COVID-19 response against the SPRP and many donors have contributed to date. The status of funding raised for WHO against the SPRP can be found [here](#). The resources will be used to implement priority public health measures in support of countries to prepare and respond to coronavirus outbreaks, as well as to ensure continuation of essential health services.

Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)

The [GHRP](#) released on 25 March 2020 is a joint effort by members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), to analyse and respond to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian consequences of COVID-19, particularly on people in countries already facing other crises. US\$2 billion are required through till end December 2020 for additional humanitarian interventions, above and beyond existing humanitarian needs, due to COVID-19. As part of GHRP WHO is appealing for **US\$450 million of which only some US\$ 184 million has been pledged and received, leaving WHO with a funding gap of \$266 million** – or some 60% - for operations in countries affected by humanitarian crises. These needs are expected to rise as additional countries are added to the 2nd iteration of the GHRP, which will be released on 7 May.

WHO appreciates and thanks donors for the support already provided or pledged and encourages donors to **give fully flexible funding for the SPRP or GHRP** and avoid even high-level/soft geographic earmarking at e.g. regional or country level. This will allow WHO to direct resources to where they are most needed, which in some cases may be towards global procurement of supplies, intended for countries.

WHO funding mechanisms

COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund

As of 29 April, more than 280,000 individuals, and 115 corporations and foundations have contributed over US\$200 million to the [Solidarity Response Fund](#) has been raised in support of WHO and key partners in the pandemic response.

The WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)

CFE enables WHO to respond in real-time, playing a critical role in responding to outbreaks around the world in the most vulnerable countries with weak health systems. WHO has released US\$10 million for urgent preparedness and response COVID 19 activities globally through the [CFE](#) and encourages donors to continue to replenish the CFE to allow WHO to respond to health emergencies in real time.

REGIONAL UPDATES

African Region (AFRO)

[WHO urged countries not to let COVID-19 eclipse other health issues](#)

A training on COVID-19 surveillance and contact tracing at district level was developed, in addition to technical guidance on contact tracing implementation and a user guide for the contact tracing tool.

The solidarity flight distribution supported by WHO and Jack Ma Foundation, resumed on 27 April 2020 and finished distribution of PPE and laboratory testing reagents to 51 countries in the region.

Two sub-regional logistics hubs, coordinated by WPF, are functional (Addis Ababa and Accra) and a third is in the process of being established in Johannesburg. These hubs, complemented by air transportation, will enable the distribution of supplies within the African Region and the transport of responders to COVID-19.

For more details see AFRO [situation report](#)

Americas Region (AMRO)

The WHO Regional Office for the Americas urged countries [to strengthen vaccination against seasonal influenza and measles](#) to prevent respiratory illness and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PAHO has shared with Ministry of Health counterparts a tool to analyze needs for PPE, supplies, and medicine, and guide procurement efforts and distribution to appropriate facilities in the countries.

A document providing national authorities with a framework to inform their decision-making process, on [considerations on the adjustments of social distancing and travel related measures](#) was published as well as technical guidance on [the strengthening of the first level of care in the COVID-19 context, selecting alternative health care sites \(AHCS\), and ethical guidance for the use of scarce resources in the delivery of critical health care during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Click for more [technical documents released by PAHO](#)

For more details see PAHO [Situation Report](#)

REGIONAL UPDATES

European Region (EURO)

[Countries working to sustain population immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Countries across the WHO European Region are utilizing guidance from WHO/Europe to include immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) as an essential health service during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

[Strengthening and adjusting public health measures throughout the COVID-19 transition phases.](#)

Policy considerations for Member States in the WHO European Region to help them decide on the modulation of large-scale restrictive public health measures, while strengthening core public health service capacities together with personal protective measures and individual physical distancing

[Considerations for gradual easing of lock-downs and movement restrictions](#)

[Key considerations](#) for the gradual easing of the lockdown restrictions introduced by many countries in response to the spread of COVID-19 across the European Region.

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO)

[Pakistan launches COVID-19 preparedness and response plan.](#)

The Government of Pakistan launched its preparedness and response plan requiring US\$ 595 million to strengthen Pakistan's capacity in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and relief and build health systems to mitigate the recovery from COVID-19.

South-East Asia Region (SEARO)

[WHO convenes manufacturers, regulatory authorities meet on COVID-19 vaccines](#)

World Health Organization organized a virtual meeting of vaccine manufacturers and national regulatory authorities from its South-East Asia Region. Leading manufacturers from India, Indonesia and Thailand discussed timelines and production capacity, while regulatory bodies deliberated on adjustments that would be needed in processes to make COVID-19 vaccines available.

Key links

[COVID-19 web page](#)

[Case dashboard](#)

[Daily situation reports](#)

[Donors and partners](#)

[Response in countries](#)

[Rolling updates](#)

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