

Join our **#SafeHands4Lebanon Challenge** starting tomorrow.

### Highlight

- The number of confirmed cases worldwide has exceeded 200,000. It took over three months to reach the first 100,000 confirmed cases, and only 12 days to reach the next 100,000.
- For the first time since the coronavirus outbreak, China has reported no new #COVID19 cases yesterday!

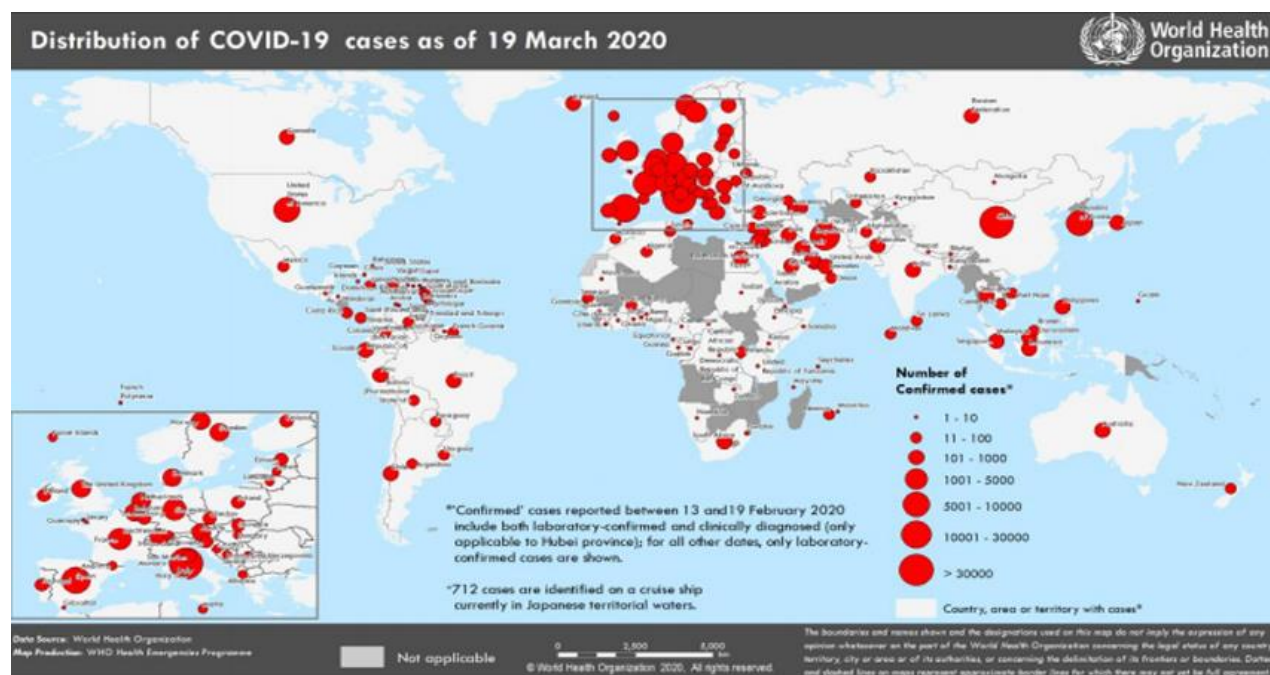
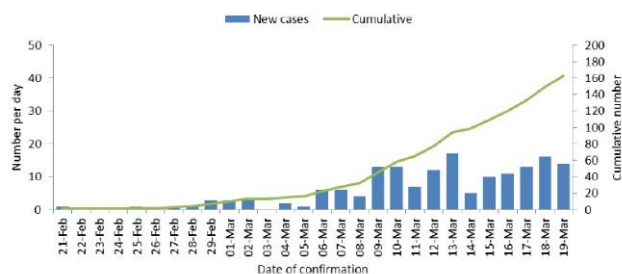


Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 19 March 2020

Regional updates		Global update	
Total cases	20,743 (1,472 new)	Globally cases	209,839 (1,984 new)
Total Deaths	1,466 (152 new)	Cases reported from	168 countries (2 new)
Countries infected	19 countries	Total deaths	8,778 (130 new) (CFR: 3.4%)
<b>Cases by country today</b> <i>Iran 1,237, Afghanistan 2, Bahrain 6, Iraq 16, Kuwait 11, Lebanon 14, Morocco 11, Occupied Territories 1, Pakistan 159 and Tunisia 15.</i>	1,472	Confirmed cases in China	81,174 (0 new)
		European Region	87,108 confirmed (10 221) 4,084 deaths (591)
		Western Pacific Region	92,333 confirmed (488) 3,377 deaths (20)
		South-East Asia Region	657 confirmed (119) 23 deaths (14)
<b>Deaths by country today</b> <i>Iran 149, Iraq 1, Tunisia 1 and Morocco 1.</i>	152	Regions of the Americas	9,144 confirmed (4166) 119 deaths (50)
		African Region	367 confirmed (132) 7 deaths (3)
		WHO RISK ASSESSMENT: Global Level - Very High	

### Distribution of COVID-19 cases as reported by the epidemiological surveillance unit at MOPH

Figure 1: Cases by date of confirmation



163

## Cumulative Cases

14

New Cases

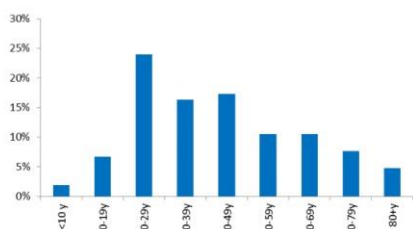
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### Cumulative Deaths

0

## New Deaths

Figure 2: Cases by age group (%)



### Figure 3: Cases by gender

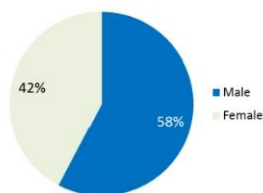


Figure 5: Cases mapping by caza of residence

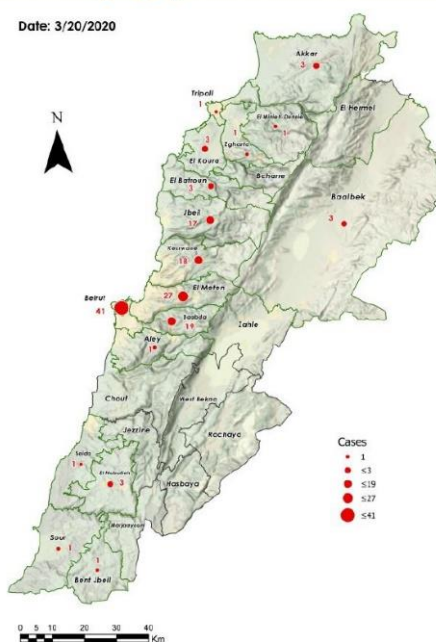
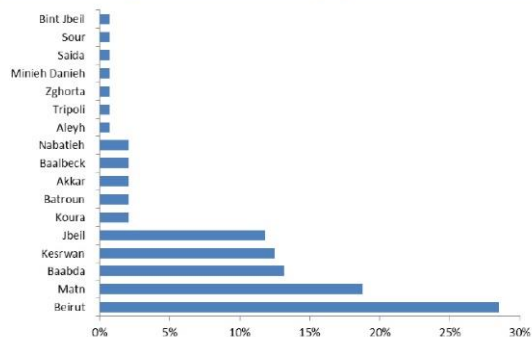


Figure 4: Cases by caza of residence (%)





## Questions and answers

### How long will this pandemic last?

We do not know at this point, as we are still in early stages of the outbreak. We cannot make predictions, but we can say that the course of the pandemic will be determined by the actions that countries take.

### How have children been affected by the virus? Have any died?

Children and young adults have been infected with COVID-19, though at lower rates than older adults. While the vast majority have experienced mild disease, some have experienced severe or critical disease. Data from Korea, Italy and China have shown that mortality increases with older age—however, in all three countries young adults and 1 child (in China) have died.

### Can COVID-19 be spread by people who are not symptomatic?

People with symptoms still seem to be the main driver of transmission. There is some preliminary viral shedding data from China, Singapore and showing COVID-19 patients can shed virus 24-48 hours before symptom onset and for 3-4 weeks after symptom onset. WHO recommends patients be released from hospital, isolation or home care after they have 2 negative tests at least 24 hours apart and have clinically recovered. If testing is not possible, it is prudent to keep individuals isolated for a further 2 weeks after symptoms resolve because they may continue to shed virus. More evidence is required—in the form of studies including serial sampling of recovered patients—to better understand how long recovered patients shed virus and if they remain infectious.

For information on  
**COVID-19**

Send 'hi' to  
**+41 798 931 892**  
on WhatsApp



World Health  
Organization

## Recommended diagnostic tool for COVID-19

The recommended gold standard for diagnosing COVID-19 remains laboratory-based Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing. The use of rapid tests might result in over diagnosis and/or underdiagnoses (compared to PCR), and requires careful clinical studies before implementation. Consequently, WHO does not recommend to implement serologic testing as a clinical diagnostic technique for COVID-19 without first completing careful clinical studies.

## More on COVID-19

- WHO Database of Publications on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). [Click here](#)
- A new protocol to investigate the extent of COVID-19 infection in the population, as determined by positive antibody tests in the general population has been developed. [Click here](#)

### Useful Links

- WHO real time [dashboard](#)
- WHO [COVID-19 page](#)
- Protect yourself ([English/Arabic](#))
- Q&A ([English/Arabic](#))
- WHO Lebanon [website](#)
- WHO Lebanon [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

### Important numbers

- MOPH Hotline 1214
- Airport quarantine section 01-629352
- Preventive medicine center 01-843769 | 01830300
- Call Centre 76-592699

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- Call Centre 76-592699
- Epidemiological Surveillance Unit 01-614194 | 01-614196

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